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(AUTHORISED EDITION)

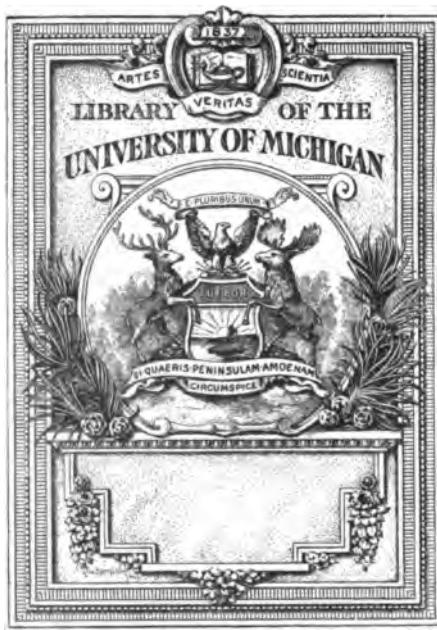
FOR SESSION 1893.

NINTH VOLUME OF SESSION

CONTAINING THE
DEBATES IN BOTH HOUSES FROM THE SIXTH JULY
TO THE TWENTY-FIRST JULY



PRINTED AND PUBLISHED
UNDER THE PRIVILEGE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,
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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

77,539

COMMENCING WITH THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

62 VICTORIAE.

VOLUME LXXIV,

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM

THE SIXTH DAY OF JULY

TO

THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF JULY

1899.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED,

UNDER CONTRACT WITH HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

BY

WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, LONDON.

1899.

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	By promotion from Lower to Second Division.	After Class I. open competition.	From other sources.
—	—	—	—

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London Government Bill—Lords Amendments considered.**Lords Amendment—**

"In page 1, line 19, to leave out from 'councillors,' to the end of the subsection, and insert, 'provided that no woman shall be eligible for such office.'"

The first Amendment, read a second time.

Amendment proposed—

"To the words inserted by the Lords, at the end, to add the words, 'except that of councillor.'"—(Mr. Courtney.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

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The House divided :—Ayes, 177 ; Noes, 246. (Division List, No. 223.)

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Amendment."

The House divided :—Ayes, 243 ; Noes, 174. (Division List, No. 224.)

Lords Amendment—

"In page 6, line 25, after 'council' insert :

"3. Every borough council shall from time to time appoint a finance committee for regulating and controlling the finance of the council; and no order for payment of any sum, whether on account of capital or income, shall be made by a borough council except in pursuance of a resolution of the council passed on the recommendation of the finance committee; and any costs, debt, or liability exceeding fifty pounds shall not be incurred except upon a resolution of the council passed on an estimate submitted by the finance committee. The notice of the meeting at which any resolution for the payment of any sum by the borough council (otherwise than for ordinary periodical payments), or any resolution for incurring any costs, debt, or liability exceeding fifty pounds will be proposed, shall state the amount of the said sum, costs, debt, or liability, and the purpose for which they are to be paid or incurred. Provided that the foregoing provisions shall not apply to payments made in pursuance of a precept from another authority."

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Lords Amendment—

"In page 6, after Clause 8, insert Clause A—

"(A.)—(1) All payment to and by the borough council shall be made to and by the borough treasurer, and all payments by the council shall, unless made in pursuance of the specific requirement of an Act of Parliament or of an order of a competent court, be made in pursuance of an order of the council signed by three members of the finance committee present at the meeting of the council, and counter-signed by the town clerk, and the same order may include several payments. Moreover, all cheques for payment of moneys issued in pursuance of any such order shall be counter-signed by the town clerk, or by a deputy approved by the council.

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‘(2) Any such order may be removed into the High Court of Justice by writ of certiorari, and may be wholly or partially disallowed or confirmed on motion and hearing with or without costs, according to the judgment and discretion of the court.’”

the next Amendment, read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

“In line 9, to leave out the word ‘countersigned,’ and insert the word ‘signed.’—(*Mr. Lough.*)—instead thereof.”

Question proposed, “That the word ‘countersigned’ stand part of the Lords Amendment.”

<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i>	80
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lords Amendment agreed to.

Other Lords Amendments agreed to.

Lords Amendment—

“In page 10, line 37, to leave out from ‘that’ to end of the sub-section, and insert :

‘(a) If the Commissioners under this Act make a special Report to Parliament that by reason of anything done under any of the adoptive Acts, or for any other exceptional reason, it is impracticable to deal with a detached part of a parish in manner required by the foregoing provisions of this section, those provisions shall not apply ; and further provided that :

‘(b) The foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply to the hamlet of Knightsbridge.’”

the next Lords Amendment, read a second time.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Bousfield (Hackney, N.)</i>	81	<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	81
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Lords Amendment agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments agreed to, with a consequential Amendment to the Bill.

Military Works Bill—[THIRD READING.]—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [3rd July], “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Question again proposed.

DISCUSSION :—

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<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.)</i>	87	<i>Colonel Blundell (Lancashire, Ince) ...</i>	91
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		<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire) ...</i>	96
		<i>Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) ...</i>	99

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Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, (in order to add the words, 'This House declines to proceed further with a Bill authorising the expenditure of public money upon military works unless full details of the purposes for which this outlay is to be made are contained therein.'")—
(Captain Sinclair.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth)</i> ...	100	<i>Mr. Wyndham</i> ...	119
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<i>Mr. Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i> ...	110	<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i> ...	124
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<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i> ...	116	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i> ...	127
		<i>Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.)</i> ...	127

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 159 ; Noes, 64. (Division List, No. 225.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

The House divided :—Ayes 159 ; Noes 64. (Division List, No. 226).

Main Question put accordingly, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

The House divided—Ayes, 159 ; Noes, 53. (Division List, No. 227.)

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

Metropolis Management Acts Amendment (Bye-Laws) Bill [Lords]—
Considered in Committee, and reported, with Amendments ; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next 135

Baths and Washhouses Acts Amendment Bill—Considered in Committee, and reported ; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next 136

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before One of the clock.

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LORDS: FRIDAY 7TH JULY 1899.

SOUUDAN CAMPAIGN, 1896-7-8—VOTE OF THANKS TO THE FORCES—The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that he had received a letter from Major-General Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, in return to the thanks of this House and to the Resolutions of the 8th of June last, communicated to him in obedience to an Order of this House on the said 8th of June. The said letter was read and ordered to be entered on the Journals ...	137
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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Newcastle-upon-Tyne Tramways and Improvement; and also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10). The same were ordered to lie on the Table ...	137
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Millwall Dock Bill —Committed ...	138
Stockport Corporation Bill —Read a second time (according to Order), and committed ...	138
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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill ; Bradford Tramways and Improvement Bill ; Leeds Corporation Bill —Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills ; (viz.) : E. Malmesbury, E. Craven, E. Egerton (Chairman), L. Bagot, L. Wandsworth. Agreed to ; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday next, at Eleven of the o'clock, and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills	140

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Militia Ballot Bill [Lords]—A Bill to amend the law relating to the ballot for the Militia in England and Wales, presented by the Marquess of Lansdowne.		
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Moved, "That the Bill be now read the first time."—(*The Secretary of State for War.*)

DISCUSSION :—

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<i>Lord Monkswell</i> ...	156		

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the first time accordingly, and to be printed. (No. 159.)

Oysters Bill —Moved, That the Order of the 18th of May last, committing the Bill to a Committee of the Whole House, be discharged ; and that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee (<i>The Lord Harris</i>) ; agreed to, and ordered accordingly. The Lords following were named of the Committee :—M. Abercorn (<i>D. Abercorn</i>), L. Harris, L. Wenlock, L. Tweedmouth, L. Heneage. The Committee to meet on Tuesday, the 18th instant, at Eleven of the clock, and to appoint their own Chairman	...	158
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London Government Bill —Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to, together with a consequential Amendment to the Bill ; Commons consequential Amendment considered [on motion], and agreed to	...	158
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House adjourned at twenty minutes before Six of the clock.

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2. Under The Land Registry Act, 1862 (Lord Westbury's Act):—
 (a) The total number, value, and acreage (where known) of estates the titles to which were registered on first registration ; (b) The total number of separate titles on the register on the 31st day of December, 1898 (i.) by first registration, and (ii.) by sub-division of estates already registered ; (c) The total number of separate titles which had been removed from the register on the 31st day of December, 1898, otherwise than by transfer to the 1875 register.

3. Under both the Acts of 1875 and 1862 :—(a) The total number of separate titles on the register on the 31st day of December, 1898 ; (b) The total number of transactions annually registered from the 1st day of January, 1895, to the 31st day of December, 1898, showing the numbers of (i.) first registrations under the Act of 1875, (ii.) conveyances, transfers, and transmissions of land, (iii.) mortgages, charges, further charges, and transfers of mortgages and charges, (iv.) reconveyances of mortgages and cessation of charges, (v.) leases and surrenders of leases, (vi.) miscellaneous.

4. Under the Mortgage Debenture Acts, 1865 and 1870, and the Improvement of Land Act, 1864 :—A statement, so far as may be practicable, of the nature and amount of the work done under these Acts from the 1st day of January, 1895, to the 31st day of December, 1898.

5. Under the Land Charges Registration and Searches Act, 1888 :—The number of registrations, official searches, and ordinary searches annually made from the 1st day of January, 1895, to the 31st day of December, 1898.

6. Under the Middlesex Registry Act, 1708, and the Land Registry (Middlesex Deeds) Act, 1891 :—The number of registrations and searches annually made from the 1st day of January, 1895, to the 31st day of December, 1898.

And showing the amount of fees received each year, and the amount of salaries and expenses each year in the Land Registry from the 1st day of April, 1895, to the 31st day of March, 1899, distinguishing with respect to the periods since the Land Transfer Act, 1897, came into operation, for the purposes of Section 22 of that Act, the fees received and salaries and expenses paid under the Land Transfer Acts, and the other Acts above referred to (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 463, of Session 1895).”—(*Mr. H. E. Greene.*) 162

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That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An Act to make new provisions with regard to the constitution, and to change the name of the company of proprietors of the Rochdale Canal ; to fix and regulate the capital and borrowing powers of the company ; to amend the Acts relating to and confer further powers on the company ; and for other purposes.” [Rochdale Canal Bill [Lords].

And, also, a Bill intituled, “An Act to confer further powers upon the London and South-Western Railway Company, to authorise them to execute further works, to acquire additional lands, and to raise further money ; and for other purposes.” [London and South-Western Railway Bill [Lords]] 164

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*CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.**CLASS III.*

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £39,232, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries of the Law Officers' Department; the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury, Queen's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions; the costs of prosecutions, of other legal proceedings, and of Parliamentary agency."

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That Item A be reduced by £455, in respect of the allowance for Personal Clerks."—(Mr. Weir.)

DISCUSSION :—

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<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	192		

Question put, and agreed to.

2. £13,200, to complete the sum for Miscellaneous Legal Expenses.
3. £206,527, to complete the sum for Supreme Court of Judicature.
4. £16,742, to complete the sum for Land Registry.
5. £29,714, to complete the sum for County Courts.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester, Forest of Dean)</i>	193	<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness-shire)</i> ...	193
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6. £40,968, to complete the sum for Police, England and Wales.

7. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £415,168 be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Prisons in England, Wales, and the Colonies."

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £410,161, be granted for the said Service."—
(*Sir Charles Cameron.*)

DISCUSSION :—

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<i>The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sir M. White Ridley, Lancashire, Blackpool)</i> ...	199	<i>Mr. Lloyd Morgan (Carmarthen, W.)</i> ...	202

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Original Question again proposed.

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Motion made, and Question proposed—

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(*Dr. Clark.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Viscount Cranborne (Rochester)</i>	210	<i>Dr. Farquharson (Aberdeen, W.)</i>	210
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Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

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<i>Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.)</i>	211	<i>Mr. Davitt</i>	213
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	212	<i>Mr. Asquith (Fife, E.)</i>	214
<i>Sir M. White Ridley</i>	212					

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £124,195, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expense of the Maintenance of Juvenile Offenders in Reformatory, Industrial, and Day Industrial Schools in Great Britain, and of the Inspectors of Reformatories."

Motion made, and Question proposed—

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(*Sir Charles Cameron.*)

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<i>Sir M. White Ridley</i>	...	<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i>	216

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

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<i>Admiral Field (Sussex, East-bourne)</i>	217	<i>Sir M. White Ridley</i>	219
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Question put, and agreed to.

9. £21,942, to complete the sum for Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum; Resolutions to be reported.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £96,868, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices."

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary of State."—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

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<i>Mr. Drage</i>	248	<i>Sir M. White Ridley</i>	267
<i>Mr. John Burns (Battersea)</i> 252		<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	268

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 35 ; Noes, 115. (Division List, No. 229.)

Original Question again proposed.

<i>Mr. Carvell Williams (Notts, Mansfield)</i>	269
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It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next ; Committee also report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

House adjourned at five minutes after Twelve of the clock.

LORDS : MONDAY, 10TH JULY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with : Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 17) ; and the certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with : Harrow and Uxbridge Railway ; the same were ordered to lie on the Table

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STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (No. 2) Bill ought to be dispensed with and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that the agreement between the London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway Company and the Midland Railway Company contained in the Third Schedule to the Bill shall be of no validity until the publication in the *London Gazette* of a certificate by two justices that the said agreement has been approved by a general meeting of the shareholders of the Midland Railway Company held in the month of August, 1899, in accordance with Standing Order 64. Read, and agreed to ...

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Belfast Water Bill ; Great Central Railway Bill ; London, Chatham and Dover Railway Bill ; Nottingham Corporation Bill ; Scunthorpe Urban District Gas and Water Bill ; Taff Vale Railway Bill —Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to ...	275
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TRADE REPORTS (1899) ANNUAL SERIES—No. 2312. Germany (Frankfort-on-Maine; No. 2313. Santo Domingo; No. 2314. United States (Boston and District). Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table	276
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1898—Regulations under the Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, as to issue of county stock	276
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Commons and Open Spaces Bill [Lords] —House in Committee [according to Order.]	
Clause 1 agreed to.	
Clause 2 :—	
Amendment moved—	
“ In page 1, line 20, to leave out ‘forty days,’ and insert ‘three months.’ ”— <i>(Viscount Cross.)</i>	
On Question, “That the words ‘forty days’ stand part of the clause,” resolved in the negative.	
On Question, “That the words ‘three months’ be here inserted, agreed to.	
Amendment moved—After line 12, to insert the following proviso :	
“ Provided, that if, at any time before the Board have approved of the scheme, they receive a written notice of dissent either—(a) from the person entitled, as lord of the manor or otherwise, to the soil of the common; or (b) from persons representing at least one-third in value of such interests in the common as are affected by the scheme; and such notice is not subsequently withdrawn, the Board shall not proceed in the matter.”— <i>(Viscount Cross.)</i>	
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On Question, “That these words be here inserted,” agreed to.

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Clause, as amended, agreed to.	
Clause 3, agreed to.	
Clause 4 :—	
Amendment moved—	
“ In page 2, to leave out Clause 4.”—(<i>Viscount Cross.</i>)	
DISCUSSION :—	
<i>The Earl of Kimberley</i> ... 284 <i>Lord Davey</i> 284	
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On Question, “That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill,” resolved in the negative.	
Clause 5 :—	
Amendment moved—	
“ In page 2, line 34, after ‘powers’ to insert ‘of management.’”—(<i>Viscount Cross.</i>)	
<i>Lord Davey</i> 285	
On Question, “That these words be here inserted,” agreed to.	
Clauses 6 and 7 agreed to.	
Clause 8 :—	
Amendment moved—	
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<i>Lord Davey</i> 285	
On Question, “That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill,” resolved in the negative.	
Clause 9, amended, and agreed to.	
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<i>Viscount Cross</i> 286	
On Question, “That Clause 10 stand part of the Bill,” resolved in the negative.	
Clauses 11, 12, and 13 agreed to.	
Clause 14 :—	
Amendment moved—	
“ In page 4, to leave out from ‘shall’ in line 14, to ‘case’ in line 17.”—(<i>Viscount Cross.</i>)	
<i>The Earl of Kimberley</i> 286	
On Question, “That these words stand part of the clause,” resolved in the negative.	
Clause 14, as amended, agreed to.	
Clause 15 agreed to.	

July 10.]**Page****Clause 16 :—****Amendment moved—**

“In page 4, line 32, after ‘This’ to insert ‘Part of this’; and to leave out from ‘apply’ in line 32, to the end of the clause, and insert ‘to the council of a county borough in like manner as if that council were the council of an urban district.’”—(*Viscount Cross.*)

On Question, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause,” resolved in the negative.

On Question, “That the words proposed to be inserted stand part of the clause,” agreed to.

Clause 16, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17, amended, and agreed to.

Clause 18, amended, and agreed to.

Clause 19 :—

Amendment moved—

“In page 5, to leave out Clause 19.”—(*Viscount Cross.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Davey</i>	287	<i>Viscount Cross</i>	287
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On Question, “That Clause 19 stand part of the Bill,” resolved in the negative.

Clause 20, amended, and agreed to.

Clause 21 :—

Amendment moved—

“After Sub-section (3) to insert new sub-section : ‘All the powers exercisable by the London County Council and other local authorities under the Open Spaces Acts, 1877 to 1890, may also be exercisable by the county of any administrative county, and any expenses incurred by a county council under the said Acts shall be defrayed as expenses incurred under the Local Government Act, 1888.’”—(*Lord Teynham.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Viscount Cross</i>	288	<i>Lord Burghclere</i>	289
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On Question, “That this sub-section be here inserted,” agreed to.

Clause 21, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee, and to be printed, as amended. (No. 161.)

Marriages Validity (No. 2) Bill [Lords]—SECOND READING—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, “That the Bill be read the second time.”—(*Lord Macnaghten.*)

<i>The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury)</i>	290
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On Question, agreed to.

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Question put, and agreed to.	

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Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill—“To amend certain provisions of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, affecting the Congested Districts Board, and to make further provision for the expenses of that Board out of money provided by Parliament,” presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. (Bill 266) 324

Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill—(COMMITTEE.)

Order for Committee read.

Bill considered in Committee.

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'rent-charge,' to insert the words, 'under the value of £200 a year, and.'"—(Mr. Lloyd-George.)

Question proposed, "That those words proposed be there inserted."

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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After the word 'the' to insert the word 'commuted.'"—(Mr. D. A. Thomas.)

Question, "That the word 'commuted' be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 155 ; Noes, 251. (Division List, No. 230.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 5, after the word ‘rent-charge,’ to insert the words, ‘derived from agricultural land.’”—(Mr. Nussey.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

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<i>Mr. Labouchere</i>	377		
<i>Mr. J. H. Roberts</i>	378		

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 98 ; Noes, 181. (Division List, No. 231.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 5, after the word ‘rent-charge,’ to insert the words, ‘which had no addition at the time of commutation as an equivalent of rates and taxes.’”—(Mr. Lambert.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i>	387	<i>Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydval)</i>	396
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<i>Mr. Abel Thomas (Carmarthen)</i>	395	<i>Mr. McKenna</i>	401
		<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	402
		<i>Mr. Long</i>	402

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 151 ; Noes, 264. (Division List, No. 232.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 5, to leave out the words ‘attached to,’ and insert the words, ‘not severed from.’”—(Mr. D. A. Thomas.)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘attached to’ stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

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Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee proceeded to a Division :—Ayes, 249 ; Noes, 135. (Division List, No. 233.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words 'attached to' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 243 ; Noes, 134. (Division List, No. 234.)

It being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) [SALARIES, &c.]—Considered in Committee.

Motion moved, and Question proposed—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment out of moneys to be provided by Parliament of a salary not exceeding £1,200, together with a residential allowance not exceeding £150, to the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the salaries and remuneration to the secretary, assistant-secretaries, inspectors, officers, and servants of the Department, and of all expenses incurred by the Department, in pursuance of any Act of the present session for establishing a Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction in Ireland."—(Mr. Gerald Balfour.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	... 423	<i>The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)</i>	424
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Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

Metropolis Management Acts Amendment (Bye-laws) Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before One of the clock.

LORDS : TUESDAY, 11TH JULY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with :—West Metropolitan Railway. The same was ordered to lie on the Table 425

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Redditch Gas Bill—Reported, with Amendments	425
Bradford Tramways and Improvement Bill—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The Orders made on Tuesday last discharged, and Bill committed	425
Harrow and Uxbridge Railway Bill ; Warrington Corporation Bill ; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Tramways and Improvement Bill—Moved, That the Order made on the 9th day of March last, That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday, the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with ; and that the Bills be read the second time ; agreed to. Bills read the second time accordingly, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection	426
Birmingham Corporation Bill—Read the third time, with the Amendments ; further Amendments made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons	426
Midland and South-Western Junction Railway Bill ; Lincoln and East Coast Railway and Dock Bill ; Woking Water and Gas Bill ; Lowestoft Promenade Pier Bill—Read the third time, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	426
Aire and Calder Navigation Bill ; Midland Railway Bill—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to	426
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Military Lands Provisional Order Bill—House in Committee [according to Order] ; Bill reported without Amendment ; Then Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and XLV. considered [according to Order], and dispensed with ; Bill read the third time, and passed	426
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill—House in Committee [according to Order] ; Bill reported without Amendment ; Standing Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read the third time on Thursday next	426
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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders Bill—Moved that the Order of the 9th March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read the second time ; agreed to. Bill read the second time accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection	427

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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill —Moved, That the Order of the 9th March last, “That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 27th day of June next,” be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read the second time ; agreed to. Bill read the second time accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection	427
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London County Council (General Powers) Bill —Report from the Committee of Selection, That the five Lords appointed a Select Committee on the Leeds Corporation Bill do form the Select Committee for the consideration of the London County Council (General Powers) Bill ; read, and agreed to ; all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bill	427
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COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877 —Account of receipts under the Act, and payments under Section 25 thereof, during the year ended 31st March, 1899	428
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“That the Bill be read the second time.”—(*The Duke of Westminster.*)**DISCUSSION :**—

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On Question, “Whether the Bill be now read the second time,” their Lordships divided :—Contents, 73 ; Not-Contents, 28.

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Youthful Offenders Bill [Lords] —Read the third time [according to Order] ; Amendments made ; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons	461
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House adjourned at Seven of the clock.

COMMONS : TUESDAY, 11TH JULY 1899.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords] —(STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH)—(Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the follow- ing Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading there- of, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—London and South- Western Railway Bill [Lords] ; Rochdale Canal Bill [Lords].—Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time	461
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TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) ; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire)	479
PORTNAGURAN HARBOUR—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) ; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire)	480
SCOTTISH FISHERY CRUISERS—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) ; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) ...	480
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PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL—Question, Dr. Farquharson (Aberdeenshire, W.) ; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire)	481
STRABANE TOWN COMMISSIONERS—Questions, Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.), and Mr. Davitt (Mayo, S.) ; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	481
IRISH DISPENSARY DOCTORS' HOLIDAYS—Question, Mr. Young (Cavan, E.) ; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	482
WICKLOW SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.) ; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	482
WICKLOW HARBOUR LOANS—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.) ; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	483
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—SCOTTISH SUPPLY—Questions, Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.), Mr. J. P. Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick), and Sir C. Cameron (Glasgow, Bridgeton) ; Answers, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	483

*PUBLIC BUSINESS.***Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill**—Considered in Committee.

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'benefice,' to insert the words, 'to which such owner may be presented after the passing of this Act.'—(Mr. Samuel Evans.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Long, Liverpool, West Derby)</i> ...	486	<i>Mr. Goddard (Ipswich) ...</i>	502
<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i> ...	487	<i>Mr. Cawley (Lancashire, Preston) ...</i>	503
<i>Mr. Nussey (Pontefract) ...</i>	489	<i>Mr. J. H. Roberts (Denbighshire, W.) ...</i>	504
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) ...</i>	489	<i>Mr. Billson (Halifax) ...</i>	505
<i>Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester) ...</i>	491	<i>Mr. Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield) ...</i>	505
<i>Mr. Moss (Denbighshire, E.)</i> ...	492	<i>Mr. McLaren (Leicestershire, Bosworth) ...</i>	506
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon) ...</i>	492	<i>Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth) ...</i>	507
<i>Mr. Harwood (Bolton) ...</i>	496	<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton) ...</i>	508
<i>Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.) ...</i>	496	<i>Mr. Stuart (Shoreditch, Hoxton) ...</i>	510
<i>Mr. Giles (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech) ...</i>	499	<i>Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydfil) ...</i>	510
<i>Mr. McKenna (Monmouth, N.) ...</i>	500	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) ...</i>	511
<i>Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton) ...</i>	502		

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 258 ; Noes, 160. (Division List, No. 235.)

Question put accordingly, " That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 165 ; Noes, 262. (Division List, No. 236.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	519	<i>Mr. Courtney (Cornwall, Bodmin) ...</i>	522
<i>Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) ...</i>	519	<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman</i> ...	523
<i>Mr. Labouchere</i> ...	520	<i>Sir William Harcourt</i> ...	524
<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman</i> ...	520	<i>Mr. D. A. Thomas</i> ...	524
<i>Sir William Harcourt</i> ...	521	<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i> ...	524
<i>Mr. Ellis J. Griffiths (Anglesey) ...</i>	522	<i>Mr. Ellis J. Griffiths</i> ...	525
		<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i> ...	526

Amendment proposed—

" In page 1, line 5, after the word 'benefice,' to insert the words, 'who has incurred expenses in the employment of a curate for the purposes of such benefice or has incurred expenses about repairing the church belonging to such benefice, he shall, where such expenditure is not less than one-half of the amount of any rate to which this Act applies.' "—(Mr. Atherley-Jones.)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> ...	529	<i>Mr. Dalziel</i> ...	534
<i>Sir William Harcourt</i> ...	530	<i>Mr. McKenna</i> ...	534
<i>Mr. Haldane (Haddington)</i> ...	532	<i>Mr. Lambert</i> ...	536
<i>Mr. Cripps (Gloucestershire, Stroud) ...</i>	533	<i>Mr. Logan (Leicester, Harborough)</i> ...	537
<i>Mr. Abel Thomas (Carmarthen)</i> ...	533		

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present ; House counted, and forty Members being found present—

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DISCUSSION resumed :—

<i>Mr. Logan</i>	538	<i>Mr. Moss</i>	543
<i>Mr. Mendl (Plymouth)</i> ...	539	<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.)</i>	543
<i>Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District)</i>	540	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	544
<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomeryshire)</i>	542		

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 208 ; Noes, 121. (Division List, No. 237.)

Question put accordingly, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 98 ; Noes, 218. (Division List, No. 238.)

Question put, "That the words of the clause, 'shall be liable to pay only,' stand part of the clause, be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 222 ; Noes, 135. (Division List, No. 239.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words of the clause 'shall be liable to pay only,' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 234 ; Noes, 145. (Division List, No. 240.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words 'one-half,' in order to insert the words, 'the proportion set forth in the schedule to this Act,'—(*Mr. David Thomas*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words 'one-half' stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i>	561	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	567
<i>Mr. Edmund Robertson</i> ...	562	<i>Mr. Abel Thomas</i>	568
(<i>Dundee</i>) ...	562	<i>Mr. Stuart</i>	569
<i>Mr. Perks</i>	562	<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i>	570
<i>Mr. Lewis</i>	563	<i>Mr. Griffith-Boscawen (Kent, Tunbridge)</i>	571
<i>Mr. Moulton (Cornwall, Launceston)</i>	564	<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i>	571
<i>Mr. Cripps</i>	565	<i>Mr. Spicer (Monmouth Boroughs)</i>	572
<i>Sir William Harcourt</i> ...	566	<i>Mr. George Whiteley (Stockport)</i>	573

Question put, "That the words 'one-half' stand part of the clause."

The Committee proceeded to a Division :—Ayes, 228 ; Noes, 125. (Division List, No. 241.)

Mr. D. A. Thomas

577

Question put, "That the question, 'That the words of the clause to the word 'and,' in line 8, stand part of the clause' be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 224 ; Noes, 104. (Division List, No. 242.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words of the clause to the word 'and,' in line 8, stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 224 ; Noes, 100. (Division List, No. 243.)

Whereupon the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

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AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) (SALARIES, &c.)—		
Resolution reported :—“That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of a Salary not exceeding £1,200, together with a residential allowance not exceeding £150, to the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the salaries and remuneration to the secretary, assistant secretaries, inspectors, officers, and servants of the Department, and of all expenses incurred by the Department in pursuance of any Act of the present Session for establishing a Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction in Ireland”	583

Resolution agreed to.

House adjourned at Twenty-five minutes before One of the clock.

COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 12TH JULY 1899.**PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.**

Leith Harbour and Docks Bill —Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to	... ... ... ... ...	585
Brighton Marine Palace and Pier Bill [Lords] —Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments	... ... ... ...	585
Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways Bill [Lords] —As amended, considered ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time	... ...	585
Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Pilotage) Bill [Lords] —As amended, considered ; an Amendment made ; Bill to be read the third time	... ...	585
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords] —Read a second time, and committed...	... ... ... ...	585
Workington Corporation Bill [Lords] —Report [11th July] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.		
Ordered, “That the Bill be read a second time.”—(<i>Dr. Farquharson</i>)	...	585

PETITIONS.

Poor Law Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1845 —Petitions for alteration of Law ;—From Cathcart and Stonehouse ; to lie upon the Table	... ...	585
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill —Petition from Liverpool, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	... ... ... ...	585
Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill —Petitions against :—From Burnley, Leslie, and Nelson ; to lie upon the Table	... ... ... ...	585

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

Sea Fisheries Act, 1868 —Copy presented,—of Report of the Board of Trade under Part III. of the Act. Orders for Fishery Grants, 1898-9 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 276)	586
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PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Metropolitan Police (Salaries) Bill—Order for Second Reading To-morrow read, and discharged ; Bill withdrawn.

Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill—Considered in Committee.

Clause 1 :—

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i>	586	<i>Mr. Lambert (Devon, South Molton)</i>	587
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Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 8, to leave out from the word ‘rent-charge’ to the end of the clause.”—(Mr. L. R. Holland.)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out to the word ‘out,’ in line 10, stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Warner (Stafford, Lichfield)</i>	...	...	593	<i>Sir William Harcourt</i>	...	...	...	...	...	615
<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i>	...	...	593	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury</i>	...	...	...	...	...
<i>Mr. Ernest Gray (West Ham, N.)</i>	...	...	593	(<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	616
<i>Mr. Stuart (Shoreditch, Hoxton)</i>	...	...	596	<i>Mr. Ellis J. Griffiths (Anglesey)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	621
<i>Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.)</i>	...	...	601	<i>Mr. Mendl (Plymouth)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	622
<i>The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Long, Liverpool, West Derby)</i>	...	...	605	<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	623
<i>Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.)</i>	...	...	610	<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	625
<i>Commander Bethell (York, E. R., Holderness)</i>	...	...	615	<i>Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	632
				<i>Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	634
				<i>Mr. Carvell Williams (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	635
				<i>Mr. Lloyd Morgan (Carmarthen, W.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	636
				<i>Colonel Welby (Taunton)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	637

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 257 ; Noes, 157. (Division List, No. 244.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. J. H. Roberts (Denbighshire, W.)</i>	641	<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	642
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Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 11, after the word ‘account,’ to insert the words, ‘in excess of such sum paid by them to Local Taxation Account in 1898.’”—(Mr. Courtenay Warner.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i>	...	...	643	<i>Mr. Labouchere</i>	...	...	...	...	...	644
<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomery)</i>	...	...	644							

Question put, “That the Question be now put.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 270 ; Noes, 148. (Division List, No. 245.)

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Question put accordingly, "That those words be there inserted."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 147 ; Noes, 271. (Division List, No. 246.)

It being after half-past Five of the clock, the Chairman proceeded to interrupt the Business.

Whereupon Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question 'That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill,' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question 'That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 266 ; Noes, 151. (Division List, No. 247.)

Question put accordingly, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 259 ; Noes, 151. (Division List, No. 248.)

Whereupon the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

It being after Six of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at five minutes after Six of the clock.

LORDS : THURSDAY, 13TH JULY 1899.

ROYAL ASSENT.

COMMISSION—The following Bills received the Royal Assent :—1. Fine or Imprisonment (Scotland and Ireland) ; 2. Reformatory Schools Amendment ; 3. Education of Children ; 4. London Government ; 5. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) ; 6. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) ; 7. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) ; 8. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) ; 9. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) ; 10. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) ; 11. Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) ; 12. Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes) ; 13. Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) ; 14. Housing of the Working Classes Provisional Order (Borrowstounness) ; 15. Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 3) ; 16. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) ; 17. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) ; 18. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) ; 19. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) ; 20. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 9) ; 21. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 16) ; 22. Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 18) ; 23. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 19) ; 24. Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (Liverpool) ; 25. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) ; 26. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1) ; 27. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) ; 28. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) ; 29. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes (No. 2) ; 30. Military Lands Provisional Order ;

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31. London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway (Pensions) ; 32. Friends' Provident Institution ; 33. Skipton Urban District Gas ; 34. Mid-Kent Gas ; 35. Wishaw Water ; 36. Shotley Bridge and Consett District Gas ; 37. Aberdeen Corporation ; 38. Cardiff Railway ; 39. Rhondda Urban District Council ; 40. Hastings and St. Leonards Gas ; 41. Belfast and Northern Counties Railways ; 42. Colonial and Foreign Banks Guarantee Fund ; 43. Grosvenor Chapel (London) ; 44. Hampstead Church (Emmanuel, West End) ; 45. Brynmawr and Western Valleys Railway ; 46. Barton-on-Sea Water ; 47. Lanarkshire (Middle Ward District) Water ; 48. Edinburgh Corporation ; 49. Wetherby District Water ; 50. Airdrie and Coatbridge Water ; 51. Gainsborough Urban District Council (Gas) ; 52. Wick and Pulteney Harbours ; 53. Dundee Gas, Street Improvements, and Tramways ; 54. Cork Corporation (Finance) ; 55. South-Eastern Railway ; 56. Fishguard Water and Gas ; 57. Bury Corporation ; 58. Bury Corporation Water ; 59. Barry Railway ; 60. Kensington and Notting Hill Electric Lighting ; 61. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (New Railways) ; 62. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Various Powers) ; 63. Cobham Gas ; 64. Stretford Gas ; 65. Central Electric Supply ; 66. Shirebrook and District Gas ; 67. South Staffordshire Stipendiary Justice ; 68. West Middlesex Water ; 69. Church Stretton Water ; 70. St. Neots Water ; 71. St. James's and Pall Mall Electric Light ; 72. Belfast Water ; 73. Great Central Railway ; 74. London, Chatham, and Dover Railway ; 75. Scunthorpe Urban District Gas and Water ; 76. Ionian Bank ; 77. Inverness Harbour ; 78. Nottingham Corporation ; 79. Taff Vale Railway ; 80. Transvaal Mortgage Loan and Finance Company ; 81. Great Yarmouth Pier ; 82. Lisburn Urban District Councils ; 83. Aire and Calder Navigation ; 84. Midland Railway ; 85. Jones's Divorce ; 86. Yorke Estate	661
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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 20). The same was ordered to lie on the Table	663
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London United Tramways Bill ; London and North-Western Railway Bill —Committee to meet To-morrow	663
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Bristol Gas Bill [Lords]—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to, with an Amendment ; and Bill returned to the Commons	663
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Warrington Corporation Bill [Lords]—The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn ; the Order made on Tuesday last discharged, and Bill committed	663
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Leeds Corporation Bill —Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	664
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Dublin Corporation Bill —A witness Ordered to attend the Select Committee	664
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Milwall Dock Bill —Reported, with Amendment.	664
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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill —Reported, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next	664
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Central London Railway Bill; Manchester Corporation (General Powers) Bill —Reported, with Amendments	664
Great Western Railway Bill; Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill —The Queen's Consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments	...	...	...	...	...	...	664
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill —Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition having been withdrawn; read, and Ordered to lie upon the Table; the Orders made on the 27th of June and the 4th of July discharged; and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House	...	...	...	...	...	...	664
London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (No. 2) Bill —Moved, That the Order made on the 9th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 27th day of June next" be dispensed with, and that the Bill be read the second time; agreed to; Bill read the second time accordingly, and committed	...	...	...	...	...	...	664
Leith Harbour and Docks Bill —Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to	...	...	...	...	...	...	664
All Saints' Church (Cardiff) Bill [Lords]; Brighton Marine Palace and Pier Bill [Lords]; Great Grimsby Street Tramways Bill [Lords] —Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments	...	...	...	...	...	...	664
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill —Read the third time [according to Order], and passed	...	...	...	...	...	...	665
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill —Amendments reported [according to Order], and Bill to be read the third time on Tuesday next	...	...	...	...	...	...	665
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill —House in Committee [according to Order]; Bills reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read the third time on Tuesday next	...	...	...	...	...	...	665

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AFRICA, No. 6 (1899) —Report by the Mombasa-Victoria (Uganda) Railway Committee on the progress of the works, 1898-99 (with a map)	...	...	...	...	...	...	665
SIERRA LEONE —Report by Her Majesty's Commissioner, and correspondence on the subject of the insurrection in the Sierra Leone Protectorate, 1898. Part II. Evidence and documents	...	...	...	...	...	...	665
TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES) —No. 2315. Venezuela. No. 2316. Turkey (Baghdad and Bussorah). Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table	...	...	...	...	...	...	665
LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896 —Orders made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of—I. A light railway in the County of Essex, between Corringham, Thames Haven, and Kynochtown. II. Light railways in the County of Lancaster, in the parishes of Barton-upon-Irwell and Stretford. III. A light railway between Axminster, in the County of Devon, and Lyme Regis, in the County of Dorset. IV. Light railways from Colwyn Bay to Llandudno, in the Counties of Denbigh and Carnarvon	665

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SEA FISHERIES ACT, 1868—Orders for fishery grants, 1898-99 ; Report of the Board of Trade, under Part III. of the Act. Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table	666
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PETITIONS.

Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]—Petition in favour of ; of the Religious Society of Friends ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	666
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VIVISECTION—Petition for suppression of the practice of ; of a Meeting in Bayswater ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	666
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Poor Law Acts Amendment Bill [Lords]—Reported from the Standing Committee, with Amendments ; the Report thereof to be received on Tuesday next ; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 164.)	666
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Commons and Open Spaces Bill [Lords]—Reported from the Standing Committee, with further Amendments ; the Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing Committee to be received To-morrow ; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 165.)	666
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Marriages Validity (No. 2) Bill [Lords]—Reported from the Standing Committee, without Amendment, and to be read the third time To-morrow...	666
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Seats for Shop Assistants (England and Ireland) Bill—Order of the Day for the House to be put into Committee, read.		
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Moved—

“That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to extend the scope of the Bill to Scotland.”—(*The Lord Ribblesdale.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Wemyss</i> ... 667	<i>The Earl of Aberdeen</i>	669
<i>Lord Norton</i> ... 668	<i>Earl Couper</i>	670
<i>The Duke of Westminster</i> ... 669	<i>The Earl of Lauderdale</i>	670
<i>The Duke of Abercorn</i> ... 669		

On Question, agreed to.

Moved, “That the House do now resolve itself into Committee,” agreed to.

House in Committee accordingly.

Clause 1 :—

Amendment moved—

“In line 10, to leave out from ‘place’ to ‘for,’ and insert, ‘as may be conveniently used by the female assistants.’”—(*The Duke of Westminster.*)

On Question, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause,” resolved in the negative.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Wemyss</i> ... 671	<i>The Duke of Westminster</i> ..	671
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On Question, “That the words proposed to be inserted stand part of the clause,” agreed to.

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Amendment moved—

“ In line 12, to leave out ‘two’ and insert ‘three.’”—(*The Duke of Westminster.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Camperdown</i> ... 672	<i>The Earl of Mayo</i> 672
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Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Wemyss</i> ... 672	<i>The Chairman of Committees (The Earl of Morley)</i> ... 672
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Clause 2, agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

Amendment moved—

“ In page 1, line 19, to leave out, ‘Shall extend to England and Ireland only, and.’”—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

<i>The Lord Privy Seal (Viscount Cross)</i> 672

On Question, “That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause,” resolved in the negative.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4, amended, and agreed to.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee, and to be printed as amended. (No. 166.) (Title altered to “ Seats for Shop Assistants Bill.”)

QUESTIONS.

KINGSTOWN HARBOUR.

<i>Lord Clonbrock</i> ... 673	<i>Lord Clonbrock</i> 676
<i>The Earl of Clanwilliam</i> ... 675	<i>The Marquess of Londonderry</i> ... 677
<i>The Earl of Denbigh</i> ... 676	<i>Lord Clonbrock</i> 677

House adjourned at a quarter past Five of the clock.

COMMONS : THURSDAY, 13TH JULY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords]—(NO STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO APPLICABLE)—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders not previously inquired into are applicable, namely : Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 678

West Gloucestershire Water Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 678

Furness Railway Bill [Lords] ; Glasgow Corporation (Gas and Water) Bill [Lords] ; Glasgow Corporation (Tramways, &c.) Bill [Lords] ; Great Yarmouth Corporation Bill [Lords] ; Kirkcaldy Corporation and Tramways Bill [Lords] ; Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [Lords] ; T otland Water Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 678

Portsmouth Corporation Bill [Lords]—Report [11th July] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders, read. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) 678

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Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) (Re-Committed) Bill—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed] ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed (No. 277). Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed [Bill 268] ...	710
MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to,—Birmingham Corporation Bill ; Midland and South-Western Junction Railway Bill ; Lincoln and East Coast Railway and Dock Bill ; Woking Water and Gas Bill ; Lowestoft Promenade Pier Bill, with Amendments. That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An Act to amend the Law relating to Youthful Offenders, and for other purposes connected therewith.” [Youthful Offenders Bill [Lords]]...	710

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Thomas Wrightson, Esq., for St. Pancras (East Division) ...	710
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PUBLIC BUSINESS.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER)—Motion made and Question put—

“That the proceedings on the Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House.”—(Mr. Balfour.)

The House divided :—Ayes, 247 ; Noes, 148. (Division List, No. 249.)

Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill—Considered in Committee—

Clause 2 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 13, to leave out ‘unless the context otherwise requires.’”—(Mr. Warner.)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Solicitor - General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i>	716	<i>Mr. Lambert (Devon, South Molton)</i>	716
		<i>Mr. Ellis J. Griffiths (Anglesea)</i> ...	716

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 13, after the word ‘requires,’ to insert the words, ‘(a) The expression “the Local Taxation Account” shall have the same meaning as in the Local Government Act, 1888.’”—(Mr. Edmund Robertson.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	719	<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland)</i>	724
<i>Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.)</i>	720	<i>Mr. Stevenson (Suffolk, Eye)</i> ...	726
<i>The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Long, Liverpool, West Derby)</i> ...	720	<i>Mr. Carson (Dublin University)</i> ...	727
<i>Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.)</i> ...	721	<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	728
<i>Mr. Gibson Lowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	722	<i>Sir William Harcourt</i>	728
<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	723	<i>Mr. Long</i>	730
<i>Sir William Harcourt</i> ...	723	<i>Mr. Edmund Robertson</i>	732
<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness)</i> ...	724	<i>Mr. Vivary Gibbs (Hertfordshire, St. Albans)</i>	733
		<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	734
		<i>Mr. Long</i>	736

Question put, “That the Question be now put.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 250 ; Noes, 173. (Division List, No. 250.)

Question put accordingly, “That those words be there inserted.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 174 ; Noes, 250. (Division List, No. 251.)

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Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 14, to leave out Sub-section (a).”—(Mr. J. H. Roberts.)

Question proposed, “That Sub-section (a) stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	743	<i>Mr. Warner</i> (<i>Staffordshire, Lichfield</i>) ...	743
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon, &c.)</i> ...	743		

Question put and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 18, to leave out from the word ‘curacies,’ to the end of paragraph (b).”—(Mr. J. H. Roberts.)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	745	<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i> ...	747
<i>Mr. Asquith (Fife, E.)</i> ...	746	<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	748
<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i> ...	746	<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i> ...	748
<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	746	<i>Mr. Hedderwick (Wirk Burghs)</i> ...	749
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid)</i> ...	747	<i>Mr. Lewis</i> ...	749
<i>Mr. Lambert</i> ...	747	<i>Mr. Asquith</i> ...	749
<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	747	<i>Mr. D. A. Thomas</i> ...	750
<i>Mr. Humphrey; - Owen (Montgomery)</i> ...	747	<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i> ...	750

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 228 ; Noes, 152. (Division List, No. 252.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 25, to leave out paragraph (c) of Sub-section 1, and insert the words, ‘The expression “owner,” means the incumbent in receipt of the tithe rent-charge at the date of the passing of this Act.’”—(Mr. David Thomas.)

Question proposed, “That paragraph (c), of Sub-section 1, stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> ...	755	<i>Mr. Leuty (Leeds, E.)</i> ...	757
<i>Mr. Lewis</i> ...	755	<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i> ...	758
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i> ...	756	<i>Mr. Long</i> ...	760
<i>Mr. Ellis J. Griffiths</i> ...	756	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury</i> ...	
<i>Sir J. T. Brunner (Cheshire, Northwich)</i> ...	756	<i>(Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i> ...	760

Question put, “That the Question be now put.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 187 ; Noes, 107. (Division List, No. 253.)

Question put accordingly, “That paragaph (c) of Sub-section 1, stand part of the clause.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 184 ; Noes, 111. (Division List, No. 254.)

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Question put, "That the Question, 'That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 184 ; Noes, 97. (Division List, No. 255.)

Question put accordingly, "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 184 ; Noes, 101. (Division List, No. 256.)

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present ; House counted, and, forty Members being found present :

Clause 3 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 1, after the word 'Rates,' to insert the word 'Relief.'"—
(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'Relief' be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	772	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i> ...	776
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i> ...	773	<i>Mr. Maddison (Sheffield, Bright-</i>	
<i>Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester)</i> ...	774	<i>side) ...</i> ...	776
<i>Mr. D. A. Thomas</i> ...	774	<i>Mr. Carrell Williams (Notting-</i>	
<i>Mr. Nussey (Pontefract)</i> ...	775	<i>hamshire, Mansfield) ...</i> ...	777

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 105 ; Noes, 175. (Division List, No. 257.)

Question put, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 184 ; Noes, 118. (Division List, No. 258.)

Clause 4 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 3, to leave out from the word 'shall,' to the word 'said,' in line 9, and insert the words, 'not come into operation until the expiration of the.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of the clause to 'any,' in line 4, stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. D. A. Thomas</i> ...	785	<i>Mr. Lambert</i> ...	789
<i>Mr. Long</i> ...	785	<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	789
<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i> ...	786	<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i>	789
<i>Mr. Long</i> ...	786	<i>Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice (Wilts,</i>	
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i> ...	786	<i>Cricklade) ...</i> ...	789
<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i> ...	787	<i>Mr. Logan (Leicestershire, Har-</i>	
<i>Sir William Harcourt</i> ...	787	<i>borough) ...</i> ...	790
<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i> ...	788	<i>Mr. Cawley (Lancashire, Prest-</i>	
<i>Mr. Dalziel</i> ...	788	<i>wich) ...</i> ...	790
<i>Mr. Maddison</i> ...	788	<i>Mr. Carrell Williams</i> ...	791

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 244 ; Noes, 148. (Division List, No. 259.)

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 4, after the word 'except' to insert the words, 'any rate levied in relief of the poor or.'"—(Mr. D. A. Thomas.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> 796	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i> 798
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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 149 ; Noes, 267. (Division List, No. 260.)

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 7, to leave out from the word 'half' to the end of the clause."—(Mr. David Thomas.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> 804	<i>Mr. D. A. Thomas</i> 805
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The Committee divided :—Ayes, 274 ; Noes, 152. (Division List, No. 261.)

Question put, "That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 270 ; Noes, 155. (Division List, No. 262.)

NEW CLAUSE :—

New clause (Extent of Act—(Mr. Lewis)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> 817	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i> 823
<i>Mr. J. H. Roberts</i> 818	<i>Mr. William Abraham (Glamor-</i>
<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen</i> 820	<i>ganshire, Rhondda)</i> 825
<i>Sir William Harcourt</i> 821	<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i> 827
<i>Mr. Long</i> 822	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i> 830

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 120 ; Noes, 233. (Division List, No. 263.)

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—
(Mr. Dalziel.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> 833	<i>Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.)</i> 834
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i> 833	<i>Mr. Lambert</i> 834
<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman</i> <i>(Stirling Burghs)</i> 833	

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 107 ; Noes, 216. (Division List, No. 264.)

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New clause :—

"The Commissioners of Inland Revenue shall, not more than eight days after they have, under the provisions of this Act, paid any moneys in respect of any rate on tithe rent-charge, make out and forward to the council of the county borough or administrative county wherein the hereditaments out of which that tithe rent-charge arises are situate, a certificate stating the amount of the payment and the name of the benefice to which the tithe rent-charge is attached."—
(*Mr. Humphreys-Owen.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> 839	<i>Mr. Long</i> 842
<i>Mr. Brynmor-Jones (Swansea District)</i> 839	<i>Mr. Dalziel</i> 842
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i> ... 840	<i>Mr. Stuart (Shoreditch, Hoxton)</i> 843
<i>Mr. Lambert</i> 841	<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i> 843
<i>Mr. H. S. Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse)</i> ... 841	<i>The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon)</i> ... 844
<i>Mr. Logan</i> 842	<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i> 844
	<i>Mr. Long</i> 844

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 202; Noes, 97. (Division List, No. 265.)

Question put accordingly, "That the clause be read a second time."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 97; Noes, 202. (Division List, No. 266.)

New clause (provisions as to sequestered benefices)—(*Mr. Samuel Evans*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> 853	<i>Mr. M'Kenna (Monmouthshire, W.)</i> 854
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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 97; Noes, 201. (Division List, No. 267.)

<i>Mr. Labouchere</i> 857

Question put, "That the Chairman do report the Bill, without Amendment, to the House."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 189; Noes, 94. (Division List, No. 268.)

HOUSE RESUMED.

<i>Mr. Dalziel</i> 859
--

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i> 860	<i>Mr. Ritchie</i> 860
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Question put, and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly at five minutes after Four of the clock
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SUPPLY [19TH ALLOTTED DAY]—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. E. ELLIS (Nottingham, Rushcliffe) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899–1900.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That a sum, not exceeding £8,858, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty’s Secretary for Scotland and Subordinate Offices.”

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			<i>Sir W. B. Gurdon (Norfolk, N.)</i> .	897

Motion made, and Question proposed —

“That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £50, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary for Scotland.”—(Mr. Weir.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir John Lubbock (London University)</i>	...	900	<i>Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty)</i> ...	909
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<i>Mr. Power (Waterford, E.)</i> ..	905		<i>Mr. Hedderwick (Wick Burghs)</i> ...	910
<i>Mr. A. G. Murray</i> ...	906			

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 71 ; Nocs, 134. (Division List, No. 269.)

Original Question again proposed.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £500, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary for Scotland.”—(Sir Charles Cameron.)

DISCUSSION :—

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<i>Mr. A. G. Murray</i> ...	920	<i>Dr. Clark</i>	934
<i>Dr. Clark</i>	923	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manches- ter, E.)</i>	936
<i>Mr. A. G. Murray</i> ...	924	<i>Mr. William Allan (Gateshead)</i>	937
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<i>Sir W. Priestley (Edinburgh, St. Andrews University)</i>	927		

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DISCUSSION Resumed :—

<i>Mr. McLeod (Sutherland-shire)</i> ...	939	<i>Mr. Weir</i> ...	940
<i>Sir Walter Foster</i> ...	939	<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i> ...	940

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Weir</i> ...	941	<i>Mr. A. G. Murray</i> ...	941
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Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made and Question proposed—"That a sum, not exceeding £16,169, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Fishery Board in Scotland, and for grants in aid of Piers or Quays."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Cochrane (Ayrshire, North)</i> ...	941	<i>Mr. Buchanan</i> ...	944
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<i>Mr. Weir</i> ...	944	<i>Dr. Clark</i> ...	947

Motion made, and Question put—

"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Weir.*)

The Committee divided :—Ayes. 18 ; Noes, 80. (Division List, No. 270.)

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £15,969, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.)</i> ...	951	<i>Mr. Buchanan</i> ...	952
		<i>Dr. Clark</i> ...	953

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 26 ; Noes, 72. (Division List, No. 271.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. McLeod</i> ...	953	<i>Mr. A. G. Murray</i> ...	955
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It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next ; Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

House adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve of the clock.

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DISCUSSION :—

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DISCUSSION :—

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FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS (OUTWORKERS).

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Aberdeen</i> ...	984	<i>Lord Belper</i> ...	984
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Moved, That a humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that a statement be included in the next Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, showing the number of persons whose names are registered as outworkers in accordance with the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Acts, which require that the names of such persons employed in certain specified trades should be returned periodically to the Factory Inspectors.—(*The Viscount Gordon, E. Aberdeen.*) Agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

Commons and Open Spaces Bill [Lords]—[THIRD READING]—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, “That the Bill be read the third time.”—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

<i>Viscount Cross</i> ...	985
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On Question, agreed to.

Read the third time, accordingly ; Amendments made ; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons ...	986
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Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum Bill [Lords]—[SECOND READING.] Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.	
<i>The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury)</i> 986	
Bill read the second time [according to Order]; and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.	
House adjourned at half-past Six of the clock.	
<hr/>	
COMMONS : MONDAY, 17TH JULY 1899.	
<i>PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.</i>	
PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [Lords]—(STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH)— Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.: Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords] ; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [Lords] —Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow 987	
Birmingham Corporation Bill; Milton Creek Conservancy Bill; Woking Water and Gas Bill —Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 987	
Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways Bill [Lords]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Pilotage) Bill [Lords] —Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 987	
London and South-Western Railway Bill [Lords]; Workington Corporation Bill [Lords] —Read a second time, and committed ... 987	
Burgh Police (Scotland) Provisional Order Bill —Read the third time, and passed 988	
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill [Lords] ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill [Lords] ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill [Lords] ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill [Lords] ; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords] ; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords] —Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 988	
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill—[THIRD READING.] —Order for Third Reading read.	
<i>Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth)</i> 988	
Bill read the third time, and passed.	
Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords] —Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 988	

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COURT OF PROBATE DIVISION (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE) (IRELAND) —Annual Account presented, of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended 31st December, 1898 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 280.)	989
GLANDERS (DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE) —Copy presented, of Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture to inquire into and report upon the working of the Diseases of Animals Acts in so far as they relate to Glanders ; together with the Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, &c. [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	989
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BRITISH NAVAL OFFICERS IN THE SOUDAN —Question, Lord Charles Beresford (York) ; Answer, The First Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Goschen, St. George's, Hanover Square)	990
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Trawlers' Certificates Suspension Bill [Lords]—Order for Second Reading upon Wednesday read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn	1014
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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to,—Goole Urban District Council Bill, with Amendments. Amendments to,—Liverpool Overhead Railway Bill [Lords]; All Saints' Church (Cardiff) Bill [Lords]; Great Grimsby Street Tramways Bill [Lords]; Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [Lords]; Totland Water Bill [Lords], without Amendment. That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to remove doubts as to the Validity of certain Marriages." [Marriages Validity (No. 2) Bill [Lords]]	... 1014
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PUBLIC BUSINESS.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS)—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That for the remainder of the session Government business be not interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the sittings of the House, and may be entered upon at any hour, though opposed; and that at the conclusion of the Government business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put."—(<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour.</i>)	
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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i>	... 1018	<i>Sir James Rankin (Herefordshire, Leominster)</i>	... 1021
<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester, Forest of Dean)</i>	... 1020		

Amendment proposed—

"After the word 'That,' to insert the words, 'on and after To-morrow.'"—
(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	1022	<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness)</i>	... 1022
<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman</i>	1022	<i>Mr. Coghill (Stoke-upon-Trent)</i>	... 1023
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	... 1022	<i>Captain Norton (Newington, W.)</i>	1023
		<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	... 1023

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.)</i>	1023	<i>Sir J. Joicey (Durham, Chester-le-Street)</i>	1027
<i>Sir William Houldsworth (Manchester, N.W.)</i> ...	1023	<i>Mr. Arnold-Forster (Belfast, W.)</i>	1027
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<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	1024	<i>Mr. Coghill</i>	1028
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<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i> ...	1025	<i>Mr. Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i>	1031
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	1026	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans, Glamorgan-shire, Mid)</i>	1032
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> ...	1027		

Amendment proposed—

“After the word ‘session,’ to insert the words ‘except on Wednesdays.’”—
(*Mr. Samuel Evans*.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.)</i> ...	1033	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	1033
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. Brunner (Cheshire, Northwich)</i>	1033	<i>Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs)</i> ...	1033
<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...	1033	<i>Captain Norton</i>	1034

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 286 ; Noes, 93. (Division List, No. 272.)

Ordered, That for the remainder of the session Government business be not interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the sittings of the House, and may be entered upon at any hour, though opposed; and that at the conclusion of Government business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put 1039

PUBLIC WORKS (LOANS)—Bill to grant money for the purpose of certain local loans, and for other purposes relating to loans out of the Local Loans Fund, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer 1039

Public Works (Loans) Bill—“To grant money for the purpose of certain local loans, and for other purposes relating to loans out of the Local Loans Fund”; presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. (Bill 271.) 1039

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill—Order for consideration of the Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), read.

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Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), be now considered."

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words, 'upon this day three months.'"—(Mr. Strachey.)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i> ...	1042	<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston)</i> ...	1058
<i>Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet)</i> ...	1042	<i>Sir Thomas Esmonde (Kerry, W.)</i> ...	1060
<i>Mr. Kearley (Devonport)</i> ...	1044	<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i> ...	1061
<i>Mr. Strachey (Somersetshire, S.)</i> ...	1045	<i>Mr. Lambert (Devon, South Molton)</i> ...	1064
<i>Mr. Kearley</i> ...	1045	<i>Sir Charles Cameron (Glasgow, Bridgeton)</i> ...	1065
<i>The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Long, Liverpool, West Derby)</i> ...	1046	<i>Mr. John Burns (Battersea)</i> ...	1066
<i>Sir John Leng (Dundee)</i> ...	1047	<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i> ...	1066
		<i>Mr. Kilbride (Galway, N.)</i> ...	1071
		<i>Mr. Power (Waterford, E.)</i> ...	1074

Question put, and agreed to,

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, considered.

A Clause (Repeal of enactments in Schedule)—(Mr. Long)—brought up, and read the first and second time, and added.

Clause (Exemption from penalty)—(Sir Charles Cameron)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> ...	1076	<i>Mr. Bartley (Islington, W.)</i> ...	1078
<i>Mr. George Whiteley (Stockport)</i> ...	1076	<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i> ...	1078
<i>Sir Walter Foster</i> ...	1077	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire)</i> ...	1078
<i>Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.)</i> ...	1077		

Question put, and negatived.

New clause :—

"The provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, shall apply to and include every wholesale trader or manufacturer of any article of food or drug who shall sell to the prejudice of the purchaser any article of food or drug which is not of the nature, substance, and quality of the article demanded by such purchaser, and the seventeenth section of the said Act shall be read as if the words 'whether by wholesale or' were inserted between the words 'on sale' and the words 'by retail' in the said section"—(Sir Charles Cameron);

brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time.

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> 1079	<i>Mr. Pickersgill</i> 1082
<i>Mr. Lough</i> 1080	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i> 1082
<i>Mr. Radcliffe Cooke (Hereford)</i> 1080	<i>Mr. Channing (Northampton, E.)</i> 1082
<i>Sir John Leng</i> 1080	<i>Mr. Duckworth (Lancashire, Midleton)</i> 1083
<i>Mr. Long</i> 1081	<i>Mr. Alexander Cross (Glasgow, Camlachie)</i> 1084
<i>Sir Walter Foster</i> 1081	

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 75 ; Noes, 175. (Division List, No. 273.)

New clause :—

“(1) The Local Government Board shall appoint a Standing Committee of Reference on Food Standards, to be composed as follows :—Each of the following bodies—that is to say, the Society of Public Analysts, the General Medical Council, the Institute of Chemistry, and the Pharmaceutical Society—shall name a representative, and the Local Government Board shall, if it think fit, appoint such nominee to be a Member of the Standing Committee of Reference on Food Standards. But if the Local Government Board object to any person so nominated, it may require any of the bodies aforesaid to nominate three persons, from whom the Local Government Board shall select one as the representative of that body on the said Standing Committee. The principal officer of the Government Laboratory at Somerset House shall, *ex-officio*, be a member of the said Committee. The Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture shall each nominate one representative, and the Board of Trade shall nominate two members engaged in commerce. And the said Standing Committee shall, after such notice and such inquiry as they shall think fit, be empowered to make such orders as they from time to time think proper respecting standards of the quality and purity of food and drugs, and to determine what deficiency of the normal contents of any article of food or drug, or what addition of extraneous matter, or what proportion of water in any article of food or drug shall raise a presumption, until the contrary is proved, that the article in question is not genuine or is injurious to health, and such orders, if and when they have been confirmed by one of Her Majesty’s Principal Secretaries of State, shall have the force of law. Provided always, that in any case where a standard of the quality or purity of any article of food or drugs is prescribed by Statute this section shall not apply.

“(2) The members of the Standing Committee of Reference on Food Standards shall be remunerated for their services out of moneys to be provided by Parliament on such a scale as the Treasury may determine. The Local Government Board shall nominate a member of the Committee to act as chairman, three shall form a quorum, and the chairman shall have a casting but not a deliberate vote”—(*Sir Charles Cameron*) ;

brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the clause be read a second time.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> 1087	<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire)</i> ... 1094
<i>Mr. Kearley</i> 1089	<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i> ... 1095
<i>Mr. Lowles (Shoreditch, Haggerston)</i> 1089	<i>Mr. G. Whiteley</i> 1097
<i>Mr. Hedderwick (Wick Burghs)</i> 1090	<i>Mr. Long</i> 1097
<i>Mr. Long</i> 1090	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i> 1097
<i>Mr. Radcliffe Cooke</i> 1091	<i>Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.)</i> ... 1098
<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness)</i> 1091	<i>Mr. Kilbride</i> 1100
<i>The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. T. W. Russell, Tyrone, S.)</i> ... 1093	

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Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 84 ; Noes, 194. (Division List, No. 274.)

New clause :—

“ Any inspector appointed by any local authority, or by the Local Government Board, under this Act, shall have power—(a) at all reasonable times to enter any public or private sale-room occupied or used by merchants, brokers, wholesale dealers, or other persons, and to any public or private warehouse, factory, store, quay, ship, or barge where food or drugs are offered for sale or deposited for the purpose of sale or carriage, and to purchase, seize, or procure samples of such food or drugs ; (b) to purchase, seize, or procure samples of any food or drugs at the time of delivery, or at any railway station or other place during transit, or upon the premises of or elsewhere in the possession of any person for the purpose of carriage ”—(*Mr. Kearley*) ;

brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “ That the clause be read a second time.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> 1104	<i>Mr. J. H. Johnstone (Sussex, Horsham)</i> 1108
<i>Mr. John Burns</i> 1105	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i> 1109
<i>Mr. Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.)</i> 1106	<i>Dr. Clark</i> 1110
<i>Mr. Hedderwick</i> 1106	<i>Sir John Leng</i> 1110
<i>Mr. Duckworth</i> 1107	<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i> ... 1111
<i>Mr. Platt-Higgins (Salford, N.)</i> 1107	<i>Mr. Long</i> 1111
<i>Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District)</i> 1108	<i>Mr. Jeffreys (Hampshire, N.)</i> ... 1111
	<i>Mr. Kilbride</i> 1112
	<i>Mr. Jonathan Samuel (Stockton)</i> 1112

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 50 ; Noes, 177. (Division List, No. 275.)

Further consideration, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

University of London Act (1898) Amendment Bill—Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow. 1115

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order for Second Reading read. 1115

Motion made, and Question proposed, “ That the Bill be now read a second time.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness)</i> ... 1115	<i>Mr. Davitt (Mayo, S.)</i> ... 1115
<i>The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)</i> ... 1115	<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.)</i> 1115

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

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SUPPLY [7TH JULY]—Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS III.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £39,232, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries of the Law Officers' Department; the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury, Queen's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions; the Costs of Prosecutions, of other Legal Proceedings, and of Parliamentary Agency."
2. "That a sum, not exceeding £23,200, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for certain Miscellaneous Legal Expenses, including a Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Incorporated Law Society."
3. "That a sum, not exceeding £206,527, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for such of the Salaries and Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund."
4. "That a sum, not exceeding £16,742, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Land Registry."
5. "That a sum, not exceeding £29,714, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses connected with the County Courts."
6. "That a sum, not exceeding £40,968, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries of the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police, and of the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District, the Pay and Expenses of Officers of Metropolitan Police employed on special duties, and the Salaries and Expenses of the Inspectors of Constabulary."
7. "That a sum, not exceeding £415,161, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Prisons in England, Wales, and the Colonies."
8. "That a sum, not exceeding £124,195, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day March, 1900, for the Expense of the Maintenance of Juvenile Offenders in Reformatory, Industrial, and Day Industrial Schools in Great Britain, and of the Inspectors of Reformatories."
9. "That a sum, not exceeding £21,942, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics in the Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum."

Resolutions agreed to.

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SUPPLY—[14TH JULY.]—Resolution reported.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899–1900.

CLASS II.

“That a sum, not exceeding £8,858, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty’s Secretary for Scotland and Subordinate Offices.”

Resolution agreed to.

METROPOLITAN POLICE (SALARIES)—Considered in Committee.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the Salaries of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, the Receiver of the Metropolitan Police District, and the Assistant Commissioners of Police of the Metropolis.”—(*Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness)</i> ... 1118	<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanark, Mid.)</i> ... 1118
<i>The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sir M. White Ridley, Lancashire, Blackpool)</i> 1118	

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

Trout Fishing Annual Close Time (Scotland) Bill [Lords]—Order for resuming adjourned Debate on Second Reading [12th June] read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn 1119

Metropolitan Streets Act (1867) Amendment Bill—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn 1119

Money-Lending Bill [Lords]—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn 1119

Land Tax Commissioners’ Names Bill—Read a second time, and committed for Monday next. Ordered, That the Members for counties do prepare lists of the Christian and surnames of Commissioners for executing the Land Tax Acts for their respective counties. Ordered, That Members for boroughs and places having Commissioners executing exclusive jurisdiction within the same under the said Acts do prepare similar lists of Commissioners for executing the said Acts within such boroughs and places respectively. Ordered, That Members for other boroughs and places do prepare similar lists of Commissioners for executing the said Acts for the counties in which such last-mentioned boroughs and places are situate.—(*Mr. Hanbury.*) 1119

Universities (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill—Order for resuming adjourned Debate on Second Reading [9th March] read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn 1119

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Undersized Fish Bill —Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn	1120
Tithe Rent-Charge (Ireland) Bill —Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn	1120
Parish Churches (Scotland) Bill [Lords] —Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn	1120
Licensing Exemption (Houses of Parliament) Bill —Order for resuming adjourned Debate on Second Reading [23rd February] read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn	1120
Congested Districts Board (Ireland) (Expenses) —Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of an annual sum to the Congested Districts Board for the purposes of Sub-section 3 of Section 43 of The Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, and for other purposes of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts, in pursuance of any Act of the present session to amend certain provisions of The Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, affecting the Congested Districts Board, and to make further provision for the expenses of that Board out of money provided by Parliament [Queen's Recommendation signified], To-morrow.—(<i>Mr. Gerald Balfour</i>)	1120
NAVAL WORKS (CONSOLIDATED FUNDS) —Committee to consider of making further provision for the construction of works and acquisition of land in the United Kingdom and elsewhere for the purposes of the Royal Navy, and of authorising the payment, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums as may be necessary for those purposes [Queen's Recommendation signified], To-morrow.—(<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>)	1120
Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of this day, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.	

House adjourned accordingly at One of the clock.

LORDS: TUESDAY, 18TH JULY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE —Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the West Metropolitan Railway Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed... ...	1121
Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill; Darwen Corporation Bill —Committee to meet on Thursday next	1121
Bootle Corporation Bill; Menstone Water Bill —Committee to meet on Friday next	1121
Furness Railway Bill [Lords]; Glasgow Corporation (Tramways, &c.) Bill [Lords]; Kirkcaldy Corporation and Tramways Bill [Lords]; South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies Bill —Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to ...	1121
Dublin Corporation Bill; Dublin Corporation (Markets) Bill —Leave given to the Select Committee to adjourn over To-morrow ...	1121

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Great Western and Great Central Railway Companies Bill —Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	1121
Sheffield Corporation Markets Bill —Reported, with Amendments ...	1121
London and North-Western Railway ; (New Railway) Bill —Report from the Select Committee, with Amendments	1121
South-Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railway Companies (New Lines) Bill —Reported, with Amendments...	1122
Warrington Corporation Bill —Reported, with Amendments	1122
West Metropolitan Railway Bill —Moved, That the Order made on the 9th March last, “That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday, the 27th day of June next,” be dispensed with, and that the Bill be read a second time ; agreed to ; Bill read a second time accordingly, and committed : The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection	1122
Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords] —Read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons	1122
Great Western Railway Bill ; Central London Railway Bill ; Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill ; Manchester Corporation (General Powers) Bill ; London United Tramways Bill ; London and North-Western Railway (Additional Powers) Bill —Read the third time, with the Amendments, and passed and returned to the Commons	1122
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill [Lords] ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill [Lords] ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill [Lords] ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 15) Bill [Lords] ; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords] ; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords] ; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords] —Returned from the Commons agreed to	1122
Birmingham Corporation Bill ; Milton Creek Conservancy Bill ; Woking Water and Gas Bill —Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to	1123
Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways Bill [Lords] —Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments	1123
Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Pilotage) Bill [Lords] —Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments ; The said Amendments considered, and agreed to	1123
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Tramways and Improvement Bill ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill ; West Metropolitan Railway Bill ; Harrow and Uxbridge Railway Bill ; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 20) Bill —Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz. :—L. Kenyon, L. Ribblesdale (chairman), L. Granard (<i>E. Granard</i>), L. Plunket, L. Greville. Agreed to ; and the said Lords appointed accordingly : The Committee to meet on Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock ; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills	1123

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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill —House in Committee [according to Order]: The Amendments proposed by the Chairman of Committees' Committee made; Standing Committee negatived; The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next 1123
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill —Read the third time [according to Order], with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	... ... 1124
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill —Read the third time [according to Order], and passed	... ... 1124
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill —House in Committee [according to Order]: Amendments made; Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next	... ... 1124
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill —Amendments reported [according to Order], and Bill to be read the third time on Thursday next	... ... 1124

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

TRADE REPORTS (1899) (ANNUAL SERIES) —No. 2319. Philippine Islands	1124
DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT —Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture to inquire into and report upon the working of the Diseases of Animals Acts in so far as they relate to glanders, and to consider whether any more effectual measures can with advantage be taken to prevent the spread of that disease; together with the Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, etc. Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table	1124
Seats for Shop Assistants (England and Ireland) Bill, now Seats for Shop Assistants Bill —Reported from the Standing Committee, with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing Committee to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 169.)	1124
Oysters Bill [Lords] —The evidence taken before the Select Committee to be printed for the use of the Members of this House; but no copies thereof to be delivered, except to Members of the Committee, until further Order. (No. 170.)	1125
Metropolis Management Acts Amendment (Bye-Laws) Bill [Lords] —Commons Amendments to be considered on Thursday next	1125
Poor Law Acts Amendment Bill [Lords] —Amendments reported [according to Order]	1125

Further Amendment moved—

“In Clause 1, page 1, line 12, after ‘deficiency,’ to insert ‘or of vicious.’”
—(Lord Harris.)

On Question, “That these words be here inserted,” agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“In Clause 1, page 1, line 12, to leave out ‘vicious habits or mode of life.’”
—(The Lord Norton.)

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Harris</i> 1126	<i>The Earl of Kimberley</i> 1128
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On question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question", agreed to.

Moved, "That Standing Order No. XXXIX. be considered in order to its being dispensed with"; agreed to, and the said Standing Order dispensed with accordingly; Bill read the third time, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Sea Fisheries Bill [Lords] —Read the third time [according to Order], and passed, and sent to the Commons 1128
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Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum Bill [Lords] —House in Committee [according to Order]: Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read the third time on Thursday next 1128
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LAND ACTS (IRELAND)—Moved, "That the question of compensation to the Irish landowners for injuries inflicted upon them by recent legislation demands the immediate attention of Her Majesty's Government."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Inchiquin</i>	... 1128	<i>The Marquess of Londonderry</i>	... 1149
<i>The Duke of Abercorn</i>	... 1139	<i>Lord Clonbrock</i>	... ... 1152
<i>Lord Farnham</i>	... 1140	<i>The Earl of Mayo</i>	... ... 1158
<i>The Lord Chancellor of Ireland (Lord Ashbourne)</i>	... 1146	<i>The Secretary of State for War (The Marquess of Lansdowne)</i>	1159

Small Houses (Acquisition of Ownership) Bill —To be read a second time on Friday next.—(<i>The Earl of Selborne</i>) 1163
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Companies Bill [Lords] —House to be in Committee on Thursday next	... 1164
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House adjourned at ten minutes before Eight of the clock.

COMMONS : TUESDAY, 18TH JULY 1899.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE, &c. —Ordered, That the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures, have leave to sit To-morrow during the sitting of the House—(<i>Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice</i>) 1165
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SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS). (Division List, No. 272)—Mr. ANSTRUTHER and Captain NORTON, the Tellers for the Aye Lobby, in the Division of yesterday on the Main Question, came to the Table and stated that they had erroneously reported the number of the Ayes as 226 instead of 286, which was the proper number. Ordered, That the Clerk do correct the said error in the Journal by stating the number of the Ayes in that Division as 286, instead of 226 1165
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Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company Bill [Lords]—Not amended, considered ; to be read the third time ...	1165
Lea Bridge District Gas Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time ...	1165
Portsmouth Corporation Bill [Lords]; Rochdale Canal Bill [Lords]; Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed... ...	1166
Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed ...	1166
North-Eastern and Hull and Barnsley (Joint Dock) Bill [Lords]; Great Eastern Railway (General Powers) Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments ; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ...	1166
PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP M) —Mr. LAURENCE HARDY reported from the Committee on Group M of Private Bills ; that, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Thursday next, at Eleven of the clock. Report to lie upon the Table ...	1166

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Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill —Petition from Liverpool, in favour ; to lie upon the Table ...	1167
SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN —Petition from Colne, for Alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table ...	1167
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TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES)—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2319 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1167

QUESTIONS.

NELSON MONUMENT ON PORTSDOWN HILL—Question, Sir J. Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1167

ENFIELD FACTORY ACCIDENT—Question, Captain Bowles (Middlesex, Enfield); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for War (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) ... 1168

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SPIRIT TRAFFIC IN NIGERIA—Question, Mr. J. H. Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1168

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VENTILATION OF THE DIVISION LOBBIES—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 1170

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT—Question, Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs); Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) ... 1171

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Questions, Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire), Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.), and Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answers, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1174
MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to, Millwall Dock Bill, without Amendment. Redditch Gas Bill; Blackpool Improvement Bill, with Amendments. Amendments to, Brighton Marine Palace and Pier Bill [Lords]; Glasgow Corporation (Gas and Water) Bill [Lords], without Amendment.	
That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An Act to amend section one of the Poor Law Act, 1889, section four of The Poor Law (Apprentices, &c.) Act, 1851, and section four of The Pauper Inmates Discharge and Regulation Act, 1871.” [Poor Law Acts Amendment Bill [Lords].	
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LAND DEDICATION—Bill to facilitate the Dedication of Land to the public enjoyment, ordered to be brought in by Sir John Brunner, Mr. Bryce, Lord Balcarres, Mr. Lionel Holland, and Mr. Thomas Shaw 1176
EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES)—Bill to make further provision for Education in England and Wales, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Alfred Hutton, Sir John Brunner, Mr. Lloyd-George, and Mr. Broadhurst	... 1176
ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACT (1882) AMENDMENT—Bill to amend the Electric Lighting Act (1882), ordered to be brought in by Sir John Dorington, Mr. Hobhouse, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, Sir William Houldsworth, Colonel Lockwood, and Mr. Humphreys-Owen	... ... ... ... 1176
Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment (No. 3) Bill—“To amend the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, as to the election of Burghal Parish Councillors,” presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 273.)	... ... 1176
Land Dedication Bill—“To facilitate the Dedication of Land to the public enjoyment,” presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 274.)	... ... 1176
Education (England and Wales) Bill—“To make further provisions for Education in England and Wales,” presented and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 31st July, and to be printed. (Bill 275.)	... ... 1176
Electric Lighting Act (1882) Amendment Bill—“To amend the Electric Lighting Act, 1882,” presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. (Bill 276.) 1176

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PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill—As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

New clause—

“ It shall be unlawful to manufacture, sell, expose for sale, or import any margarine which is coloured so as to imitate or resemble butter, and every person who manufactures, sells, exposes for sale, or imports any margarine so coloured shall be guilty of an offence under the Margarine Act, 1887.”—*(Mr. Lambert)*;

brought up and read the first time.

- Motion made, and Question proposed, “That this clause be read a second time.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Long, Liverpool, West Derby)</i> ...	1179	<i>Sir Thomas Esmonde (Kerry, W.)</i>	1195
<i>Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet)</i> ...	1181	<i>Mr. Jeffreys (Hants, N.)</i>	1196
<i>Mr. Long</i> ...	1181	<i>Mr. Colville (Lanark, N.E.)</i>	1198
<i>Mr. Kearley (Devonport)</i> ...	1182	<i>Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport)</i> ...	1198
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<i>Mr. J. Lowther</i> ...	1191	<i>Mr. Kilbride (Galway, N.)</i> ...	1201
<i>Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.)</i> ...	1193	<i>Mr. Maddison (Sheffield, Brightside)</i> ...	1201
<i>Mr. Victor Cavendish (Derbyshire, W.)</i> ...	1194	<i>Mr. Alexander Cross (Glasgow, Camlachie)</i> ...	1202
		<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.)</i> ...	1203

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 68 ; Noes, 297. (Division List, No. 276.)

New clause—

“(1) A warranty shall only be accepted as a defence under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act in cases where the package has remained intact, and bulk has not been broken.

“(2) Where there is intention on the part of the person proceeded against to rely upon a warranty as a defence, the person so proceeded against shall forthwith, on receipt of summons, at once give written notice to the court in which proceedings are taken that he holds a warranty, and giving the name and address of the person from whom he received it, such person being a resident in the United Kingdom, and that he has sent notice of his intention to such person, and the court shall thereupon at once associate the name of the giver of such warranty as one of the defendants in the case, and proceedings shall be continued with such adjournments as the court may deem necessary for the due hearing of the case.”—*(General Laurie)*;

brought up, and read the first time.

Question proposed, “That the clause be now read a second time.”

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> 1209	<i>Mr. Jonathan Samuel (Stockton)</i> ... 1210
<i>General Laurie (Pembroke and Haverfordwest)</i> ... 1209	<i>Mr. Long</i> 1210
<i>Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District)</i> 1210	

Motion and clause, by leave, withdrawn.

New clause—

“ It shall be unlawful to sell or import any milk, cream, condensed, separated, or skinned milk, to which any colouring matter has been added.”—(*Mr. Strachey*) ;

brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, “ That the clause be read a second time.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> 1212	<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire)</i> ... 1215
<i>Dr. Clark</i> 1212	<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomery)</i> 1216
<i>Mr. A. J. Moore (London-derry)</i> 1213	<i>Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.)</i> ... 1216
<i>Mr. Robson (South Shields)</i> ... 1213	<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i> ... 1216
<i>Mr. Radcliffe Cooke (Hereford)</i> 1214	<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i> ... 1218
<i>Sir Walter Foster</i> 1214	<i>Captain Norton (Newington, W.)</i> ... 1218
<i>Mr. Muntz (Warwickshire, Tamworth)</i> 1215	

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 57 ; Noes, 238. (Division List, No. 277.)

New clause—

“ It shall be unlawful to sell or import for sale any liquid under the name cider or perry, unless the same be made from the juice of apples or pears only.”—(*Mr. Strachey*) ;

brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “ That the clause be read a second time.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Radcliffe Cooke</i> ... 1221	<i>Mr. Long</i> 1222
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Question put, and negatived.

New clause—

“ It shall be unlawful to sell or import for sale any margarine, butter, milk, cream, or bacon with which boracic acid, salicylic acid, formalin, bisulphite of lime, or other preservative, excepting salt, has been mixed.”—(*Mr. Channing*) ;

brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “ That the clause be read a second time.”

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> 1226	<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	1229
<i>Mr. Lough</i> 1226	<i>Dr. Clark</i> ...	1229
<i>Mr. Strachey</i> ...	... 1227	<i>Mr. Channing</i> ...	1229
<i>Sir Walter Foster</i> ...	... 1228	<i>Mr. Long</i> ...	1229
<i>Mr. Kearley</i> ...	... 1228		

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

“In page 1, line 5, after the word ‘Kingdom,’ to insert the words ‘for consumption therein.’”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question, “That those words be there inserted,” put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 7, before the word ‘margarine,’ to insert the words ‘butter and cheese.’”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> 1230	<i>Mr. Jonathan Samuel</i> 1230
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Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 7, to leave out the words ‘or margarine cheese.’”—(*Mr. Colville.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘or margarine cheese,’ stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	... 1231	<i>Mr. Alexander Cross</i> ...	... 1232
<i>Sir Charles Cameron (Glasgow, Bridgeton)</i> ...	... 1231		

Question put.

The House divided.—Ayes, 157 ; Noes, 19. (Division List, No. 278.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 10, to leave out the words ‘or impoverished.’”—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘or impoverished’ stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty)</i> 1233	<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i> ...	... 1235
<i>The Secretary of the Local Government Board (Mr. J. W. Russell, Tyrone, S.)</i> ... 1234	<i>Mr. Kearley</i> ...	... 1236
	<i>Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil)</i> 1236

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 162 ; Noes, 24. (Division List, No. 279.)

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Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 16, to leave out from the word ‘words,’ to the word ‘are,’ in line 18, and insert the words ‘skimmed or impoverished milk.’”—(*Dr. Clark.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> 1238	<i>Dr. Clark</i> 1238
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 17, after the words ‘skimmed milk,’ to insert the words ‘and not fit food for infants.’”—(*Sir Walter Foster.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Bartley</i> 1240	<i>Mr. Long</i> 1241
<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> 1240	<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i> 1241
<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i> ... 1240	

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 18, after the word ‘type,’ to insert the words ‘or (*d*) Any adulterated or impoverished articles of food to which Her Majesty may by Order in Council direct that this section shall be applied, unless the same be imported in packages or receptacles conspicuously marked with a name or description indicating that the article has been so treated.’”—(*Mr. Long.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

“To leave out the words ‘to which Her Majesty may by Order in Council direct that this section shall be applied.’”—(*Sir Charles Cameron.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> 1243	<i>Mr. Bryce</i> 1244
<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i> ... 1243	<i>Mr. Lough</i> 1244
<i>Mr. Kearley</i> 1243	

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Words inserted.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 26, after ‘article’ to insert ‘except shipowner, railway company, or common carrier.’”—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> 1245
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 1, to leave out the words from the word ‘shall’ to the word ‘take,’ in line 3.”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out to the word ‘Board,’ in line 2, stand part of the Bill.”

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 2, after the second word ‘the’ to insert the words ‘Local Government.’”—(*Sir Walter Foster.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘Local Government,’ be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i>	1247	<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	1250
<i>Mr. Jonathan Samuel</i> ...	1248	<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i>	1250
<i>Mr. Strachey</i>	1248	<i>Mr. Lough</i>	1251
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	1249	<i>Dr. Clark</i>	1252

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 76 ; Noes, 197. (Division List, No. 280.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 27, after the word ‘health,’ to insert the words, ‘But any milk, cream, or butter containing any preservative shall be imported and sold as preserved, stating the name of the preservative and the amount per gallon or per pound of such preservative.’”—(*Mr. Strachey.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

Amendment amended, by leaving out, after the word “imported,” the word “and,” and inserting the word “or”—(*Mr. Humphreys-Owen*)—instead thereof.

Question, “That the words, ‘But any milk, cream, or butter containing any preservative shall be imported or sold as preserved, stating the name of the preservative, and the amount per gallon or per pound of such preservative,’ be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i>	1255	<i>Dr. Clark</i>	1256
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Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 28, to leave out the words from the word ‘may’ to the word ‘direct,’ in line 32.”—(*Sir Walter Foster.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	1256	<i>Mr. Long</i>	1258
<i>Captain Sinclair</i> ...	1257	<i>Mr. Lambert</i>	1258
<i>Mr. Jonathan Samuel</i> ...	1257	<i>Mr. Lough</i>	1258
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	1257	<i>Mr. Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.)</i>	1258

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 183 ; Noes, 68. (Division List, No. 281.)

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CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) (EXPENSES)—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of an annual sum, not exceeding £25,000, for the purposes of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts, including the payment of the salaries or remuneration of officers employed by the Board, and the administrative expenses of the Board, in pursuance of any Act of the present session relating to the Congested Districts Board (Ireland)."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanark, Mid.)</i>	1267	<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness)</i>	1267
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Question put, and agreed to.**Resolution to be reported To-morrow.**

NAVAL WORKS (CONSOLIDATED FUND)—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, (1) That it is expedient to make further provision for the construction of works in the United Kingdom and elsewhere for the purposes of the Royal Navy, and to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums, not exceeding in the whole £3,100,000, as may be required for those purposes, and to apply the provisions of The Naval Works Act, 1895, and of The Naval Works Act, 1896 (as to the mode of raising money, and as to the application of surplus income) to the said purposes. (2) That it is expedient to amend the law with respect to the construction and use of tramways for naval purposes. Resolution to be reported To-morrow 1268

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN OVERTIME IN WASHING BOTTLES, ETC.—The following notice of motion stood on the Paper in the name of Sir JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster)—"That the Order of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, extending to factories and workshops in which the washing of bottles for use in the preserving of fruit is carried on, the special exception (Employment of Women Overtime) ought to be annulled."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester, Forest of Dean)</i>	... 1268	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	1268
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In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at One of the clock.

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COMMONS : WEDNESDAY, 19TH JULY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Bristol Gas Bill [Lords] —Lords Amendments to Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to	1269
Midland and South-Western Junction Railway Bill —Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1269
Owens College, Manchester, Bill [Lords] —Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1269
Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords] —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1269

PETITIONS.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES) —Petitions in favour, from Bradford, and Lee ; to lie upon the Table	1269
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Telegraphs (Telephonic Communication, &c.) Bill —Petition from Edinburgh, against ; to lie upon the Table	1269
Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill —Petition from Oldham, against ; to lie upon the Table	1269

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

EAST INDIA (ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES, 1899-1900) —Copy presented, of Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1269
EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) —Copy presented, of Report of the Committee of Council on Education (England and Wales), with Appendix, 1898-9 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1270
NAVY (ENGINES AND BOILERS OF SHIPS) —Copy ordered, “of Tables and Weights of Machinery, &c., of certain Ships of the Royal Navy fitted with Water-Tube and Cylindrical Return-Tube Boilers ; together with the indicated Horse-Power, Consumption of Coal per indicated Horse-Power, and Speed obtained by them on Trials during recent years.”—(Mr. Goschen.) Copy presented accordingly ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1270
Royal Niger Company Bill —[SECOND READING]—Order for Second Reading read	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1270
Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”—(Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.)												

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i>	1270	<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i>	1285
<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland)</i>	1274	<i>Mr. Hedderwick (Wick Burghs)</i>	1289
<i>Mr. William Allan (Gateshead)</i>	1279	<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	1290
<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.) ...</i>	1279	<i>The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain Birmingham, W.)</i>	1292
<i>Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.)</i>	1280	<i>Mr. Thomas Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield)</i>	1295
<i>General Laurie (Pembroke) ...</i>	1284	<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	1296
<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire) ... 1303</i>			

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To morrow.

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill—As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Another Amendment made.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 4, line 29, to leave out Clause 7.”—(*Sir Charles Cameron.*)

Question proposed, “ That the words proposed to be left out to the word ‘and,’ in line 30, stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Long, Liverpool, West Derby) ...</i>	1306
<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness) ...</i>	1307
<i>Sir John Leng (Dundee) ...</i>	1308
<i>Mr. Jonathan Samuel (Stockton) ...</i>	1308
<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) ...</i>	1308
<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i>	1309

Question put—

The House divided :—Ayes, 216 ; Noes, 61. (Division List, No. 283.)

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 4, line 30, to leave out the words, ‘and every wholesale dealer in such substances.’”—(*Mr. Jonathan Samuel.*)

Question proposed, “ That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.”

Mr. Long

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 4, line 35, to leave out Sub-section 2 of Clause 7.”—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

<i>Mr. Wallace (Perth) ...</i>	1310
<i>Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.) ...</i>	1311
<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire) ...</i>	1311
<i>Mr. Long</i>	1311
<i>Sir F. S. Powell (Wigan) ...</i>	1311
<i>Mr. Steudman (Tower Hamlets, Stepney)</i>	1312
<i>Mr. Abel Thomas (Carmarthenshire, E.)</i>	1312

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Question proposed, "That Sub-section 2 of Clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 16, to leave out Clause 8."—(Sir Charles Cameron.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'ten,' in line 17, stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> 1321	<i>The Secretary to the Local Govern-</i>
<i>Mr. Hedderwick</i> 1324	<i>ment Board (Mr. T. W.</i>
<i>Sir J. Fergusson (Manches-</i>	<i>Russell, Tyrone, S.)</i> 1333
<i>ter, N.E.)</i> 1326	<i>Sir John Leng</i> 1333
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<i>Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.)</i> 1327	<i>Mr. Kearley</i> 1336
<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derby-</i>	<i>Mr. Lough</i> 1336
<i>shire, Ilkeston)</i> 1328	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury</i>
<i>Colonel Denny (Kilmarnock</i>	<i>(Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manches-</i>
<i>Burghs)</i> 1330	<i>ter, E.)</i> 1337
<i>Mr. Kearley (Devonport)</i> ... 1330	<i>Mr. Jonathan Samuel</i> 1338
<i>Sir John Leng</i> 1332	

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 166 ; Noes, 83. (Division List, No. 284.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman</i>	<i>Mr. Long</i> 1339
<i>(Stirling Burghs)</i> ... 1339	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> 1340

Further consideration, as amended, deferred till to-morrow.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) [EXPENSES.]—Resolution re-ported :

'That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of an annual sum, not exceeding £25,000, for the purposes of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts, including the payment of the salaries or remuneration of officers employed by the Board, and the administrative expenses of the Board, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session relating to the Congested Districts Board (Ireland)."

Resolution agreed to.

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill—Considered in Committee.

Clause 5 :—

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Strachey (Somerset, S.)</i> 1341	<i>Mr. Davitt (Mayo, S.)</i> 1342
<i>The Chief Secretary for</i>	
<i>Ireland (Mr. G. W.</i>	
<i>Balfour, Leeds, Central)</i> 1342	

Clause agreed to

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

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NAVAL WORKS (CONSOLIDATED FUND)—Resolutions reported:—

“(1) That it is expedient to make further provision for the construction of works in the United Kingdom and elsewhere for the purposes of the Royal Navy, and to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums, not exceeding in the whole £3,100,000, as may be required for those purposes, and to apply the provisions of The Naval Works Act, 1895, and of The Naval Works Act, 1896 (as to the mode of raising money, and as to the application of surplus income), to the said purposes.

“(2) That it is expedient to amend the law with respect to the construction and use of tramways for naval purposes.”

DISCUSSION:—

<i>Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeen-shire, E.)</i>	... ... 1342	<i>Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth (Lancashire, Clitheroe)</i>	... ... 1343
<i>The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcester-shire, E.)</i>	... ... 1343	<i>Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth)</i>	1344
		<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>	... 1344

Resolutions agreed to:—Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Goschen, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Macartney, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Naval Works Bill—“To make further provision for the construction of works in the United Kingdom and elsewhere for the purposes of the Royal Navy, and to amend the law with respect to the construction and use of tramways for naval purposes,” presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. (Bill 278.) 1344

Electric Lighting (Clauses) Bill—As amended, considered. Amendments made. Bill read the third time, and passed 1344

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at ten minutes before Seven of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THURSDAY, 20TH JULY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 15).—And the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill: 1345

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER—The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1345

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West Metropolitan Railway Bill —Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed	1345
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne Tramways and Improvement Bill —Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the Committee having found that the petitioners had no <i>locus standi</i> before them ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 11th July and Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed	... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	1345
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill —Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto, read, and ordered to lie on the Table : the Orders made on the 11th of July and Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House for To-morrow	... ... ... ... ...	1345
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill —Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto : read, and ordered to lie on the Table ; the Orders made on the 11th of July and Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House	... ... ... ... ...	1346
Godalming Corporation Water Bill —Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments	... ... ... ... ...	1346
London County Council (Money) Bill —Reported with Amendments	... ...	1346
London County Council (General Powers) Bill —Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments	1346
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City and Brixton Railway Bill. Darwen Corporation Bill —Reported with Amendments	1346
Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill —Reported, with an Amendment	... ...	1346
Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways Bill [Lords] —Commons Amendment considered, and agreed to	... ... ... ...	1346
Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill —Read the third time, with the Amendments ; further Amendments made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons	... ... ... ...	1346
Stockport Corporation Bill ; Derby Corporation Tramways, &c., Bill —Read the third time, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	... ... ... ...	1346
Brooke's Park (Londonderry) Bill [Lords] ; Owen's College (Manchester) Bill [Lords] —Returned from the Commons, agreed to	... ...	1346
Lincoln and East Coast Railway and Dock Bill ; Lowestoft Promenade Pier Bill ; Midland and South-Western Junction Railway Bill —Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to	1347

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South Hants Water Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to ...	1347
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill —Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bills to be read the third time To-morrow ...	1347
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Metropolis Management Acts Amendment (Bye-laws) Bill [Lords]—Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to ...	1347

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

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SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC —Correspondence relating to the Bloemfontein Conference, 1899 ...	1347
AGRARIAN OUTRAGES (IRELAND) —Returns for the quarter ended 30th June, 1899 ...	1347
QUEEN'S COLLEGE, GALWAY —Annual Report of the President, for the Session, 1898–99. Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table ...	1347
MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894 .—Orders in Council of 14th July, 1899—	
I. Sanctioning a reduction, made by the Trinity House in Kingston-upon-Hull, of certain buoyage and beaconage dues levied by that Corporation between Hull and the sea.	
II. Approving certain pilotage bye-laws made by the Corporation of Bristol.	
III. Authorising the increase, by the appointment of an additional lower grade clerk, of the Establishment of the Trinity House.	
IV. Sanctioning an increase in the salary paid to Mr. George Napier McMurdo, a clerk in the service of the Commissioners of Irish Lights.	
V. Approving an amended bye-law made by the Newport (Mon.) Pilotage Board, in lieu of bye-law No. 11 of the bye-laws approved by Order in Council of 3rd October, 1895.	
VI. Approving certain bye-laws, made by the Trinity House in Kingston-upon-Hull, fixing the rates of pilotage between Hull and Goole ...	1348
FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890 —Order in Council of 14th July, 1899, entitled “The China, Japan, and Corea (Supreme Court) Order in Council, 1899.” Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table ...	1348

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HOUSES OF LORDS AND COMMONS PERMANENT STAFF —Report from the Joint Committee (with the proceedings of the Committee) made, and to be printed. (No. 171.) : Minutes of evidence, together with an Appendix, laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out	1348
Oysters Bill [Lords]—Report from the Select Committee (with the proceedings of the Committee) made, and to be printed. (No. 172.) : Minutes of evidence laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out. Bill reported, with Amendments ; and committed to a Committee of the Whole House ; and to be printed as amended. (No. 173.)	1348
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Companies Bill [Lords]—COMMITTEE—Order of the Day for the House being put into Committee on this Bill read.		
<i>The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury)</i>	1349
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QUESTIONS.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS —Question, The Earl of Wemyss ; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (The Earl of Selborne)	1350
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KINGSTOWN HARBOUR.

Moved—

“ That it is desirable that a committee be appointed to inquire into the management of Kingstown Harbour, and the adequacy of the staff of the harbour-master, and whether the lay Board of Harbour Commissioners should have the power of reducing that staff on their sole authority.”—(The Lord Clonbrock.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Clanwilliam</i> ... 1354	<i>Lord Clonbrock</i> ...	... ...	1356
<i>The Lord Privy Seal (Viscount Cross)</i> ... 1354	<i>Viscount Cross</i> ...	... ...	1356

Motion [by leave of the House] withdrawn.

Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill —Brought from the Commons ; Read the first time ; and to be printed. (No. 174.)	1357
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University of London Act (1898) Amendment Bill.—Brought from the Commons ; read the first time ; to be printed ; and to be read the second time To-morrow.—(*The Lord President, The Duke of Devonshire.*) (No. 176.) 1357

House adjourned at five minutes past Five of the clock.

COMMONS: THURSDAY, 20TH JULY 1899.

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Wakefield Corporation Bill [Lords] ; Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords] ; North-Eastern Railway Bill [Lords] ; Wolverhampton Tramways Bill [Lords] ; Fylde Water Board Bill [Lords] ; Moss Side Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill [Lords] ; Withington Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill [Lords] ; Stretford Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill [Lords] ; Hastings Harbour Bill [Lords] ; Oystermouth Railway or Tramroad Bill [Lords] ; Leigh-on-Sea Urban District Council Bill [Lords] ; Great Yarmouth Water Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments ; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	1358

PETITIONS.

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill —Petition from London and other places, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	...	...	1358
SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN —Petition from Colne, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	...	...	1358
Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill —Petitions against ; from Sunderland, and Halifax ; to lie upon the Table	1359

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AGRARIAN OUTRAGES (IRELAND) —Copy presented,—of Return for the quarter ended 30th June, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1359
QUEEN'S COLLEGE (GALWAY) —Copy presented,—of Report of the President for the session 1898–9 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1359
FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890 —Copy presented,—of Order in Council of 14th July, 1899, entitled, “The China, Japan, and Corea (Supreme Court) Order in Council, 1899” [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	1359
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MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894 —Copy presented,—of Order in Council of 14th July, 1899, sanctioning a reduction made by the Trinity House in Kingston-upon-Hull of certain buoyage and beaconage dues levied by that Corporation between Hull and the sea [by Act]; to lie upon the Table ...	1359
MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894 —Copy presented,—of Order in Council of 14th July, 1899, approving certain Pilotage Bye-laws made by the Corporation of Bristol [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	1359
MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894 —Copy presented,—of Order in Council of 14th July, 1899, approving an amended bye-law made by the Newport (Mon.) Pilotage Board, in lieu of Bye-law No. 11 of the bye-laws approved by Order in Council of 3rd October, 1895 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	1359
MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894 —Copy presented,—of Order in Council of 14th July, 1899, authorising the increase, by the appointment of an additional lower grade clerk, of the establishment of the Trinity House [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	1359
MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894 —Copy presented,—of Order in Council of 14th July, 1899, sanctioning an increase in the salary paid to Mr. George Napier M'Murdo, a clerk in the service of the Commissioners of Irish Lights [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	1360
MALTA (POLITICAL CONDITION) —Return presented, relative thereto [Address 8th June; <i>Mr. M'Iver</i>]; to lie upon the Table	1360
SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC —Copy presented, of correspondence relating to the Bloemfontein Conference, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ...	1360
TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS —Returns ordered, “(1) from each savings bank in England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the Channel Islands, containing, in columns, the names of the officers, their respective salaries, and other allowances, if any; the amount of security each gives; the annual expenses of management, inclusive of all payments and salaries, for the year ended the 20th day of November, 1898; the rate per centum per annum on the capital of the bank for the expenses of management; the rate of interest paid to depositors on the various amounts of deposit, and the average rate of interest on all accounts; the number of accounts remaining open; the total amount owing to depositors; the total amount invested with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt; the balance in the hands of the Treasurer at the 20th day of November,	

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MARK IV. CARTRIDGE—Question, Colonel Denny (Kilmarnock Burghs) ; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for War (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1364

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS —That they have agreed to,—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill, without Amendment. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; Great Western Railway Bill; Central London Railway Bill; Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill; Manchester Corporation (General Powers) Bill; London United Tramways Bill; London and North-Western Railway (Additional Powers) Bill, with Amendments. Amendments to Amendments to,—South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies Bill, without Amendment. Amendments to,—Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Pilotage) Bill [Lords]; Furness Railway Bill [Lords]; Glasgow Corporation (Tramways, &c.) Bill [Lords]; Kirkcaldy Corporation and Tramways Bill [Lords], without Amendments. That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An Act to give powers to the executive committee of the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum to invest trust funds in certain securities.” [Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum Bill [Lords]. And, also, a Bill, intituled, “An Act to authorise the construction of a tramroad in and near to Southport; and for other purposes.” [Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords]	1390
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Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill —Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow	1391
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Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords]—Read the first time, and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills	1391
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Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum Bill [Lords]—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 283.)	1391
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ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) —Bill to amend the law with respect to Customs Duties in the Isle of Man, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer	1391
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Isle of Man (Customs) Bill —“To amend the law with respect to Customs Duties in the Isle of Man,” presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 284.)	1391
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PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill —[THIRD READING]—Order for Third Reading read.	
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Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read the third time.”

DISCUSSION:—

<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i> ...	1391	<i>The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Long, Liverpool, West Derby)</i> ...	1396
<i>Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydfil)</i> ...	1392	<i>Mr. Lambert</i> ...	1396
<i>Mr. Lambert (Devon, South Molton)</i> ...	1392	<i>Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester)</i> ...	1398

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out the word ‘now,’ and at the end of the question to add the words ‘upon this day three months.’”—(*Mr. Lambert*.)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘now’ stand part of the Question.”

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. J. G. Talbot (Oxford University)</i>	... 1402	<i>Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth)</i>	1421
<i>Mr. Wentworth C. Beaumont (Northumberland, Hexham)</i>	1404	<i>Mr. Wanklyn (Bradford, Central)</i>	1425
<i>Colonel Milward (Warwick)</i>	1407	<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i>	1429
<i>Mr. Birrell (Fifeshire, W.)</i>	1412	<i>Major Rasch (Essex, S.E.)</i>	1434
<i>Mr. Seaton-Karr (St. Helens)</i>	1416	<i>Sir H. Campbell - Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i>	1434
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon District)</i>	... 1418	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	1440
<i>Mr. Seaton-Karr</i>	... 1418		

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 182 ; Noes, 117. (Division List, No. 285.)

Main Question put, and agreed to,—Bill read the third time, and passed.

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill—As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 5, line 17, to leave out the word ‘ten,’ and insert the word ‘thirty.’—(*Sir Charles Cameron*)—instead thereof.”

Question proposed, “That the word ‘ten’ stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Long, Liverpool, West Derby)</i>	... 1447	<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	... 1449
<i>Mr. Kilbride (Galway, N.)</i>	1448	<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness)</i>	... 1449
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	1448	<i>Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.)</i>	... 1450
<i>Mr. Jeffreys (Hants, Basing-stoke)</i>	... 1449	<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire)</i>	... 1450

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 131 ; Noes, 48. (Division List, No. 286.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 5, line 21, to leave out from ‘1887’ to end of clause, and insert the words, ‘unless he shows to the satisfaction of the court before whom he is charged that he purchased the article in question as margarine, containing not more than 10 per cent. of butter fat, and with a written warranty or invoice to that effect; that he had no reason to believe at the time when he sold it that the article was other than margarine containing not more than 10 per cent. of butter fat; and that he sold it in the same state as when he purchased it; and in such case he shall be discharged from the prosecution, but shall be liable to pay the costs incurred by the prosecutor unless he shall have given due notice to him that he will rely upon the above defence.’”—(*Mr. Bartley*.)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	... 1453	<i>Mr. Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i>	... 1454
<i>Sir Charles Cameron (Glasgow, Bridgeton)</i>	... 1454		

Question put, and agreed to,

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 24, after the word 'accordingly,' to insert the words 'Provided always, that in any prosecution under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act for the fraudulent or illegal sale of margarine, or any compound thereof, it shall be a good defence to prove that the requirements of the Margarine Act, 1887, as amended by this Act, had been complied with.'"—(Sir C. Cameron.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	1456	<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i> ...	1456
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Another Amendment made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 39, to insert the words, after 'type,' 'with a statement that such milk is not suited for the food of infant children.'"—(Mr. J. H. Johnstone.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> ...	1458	<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman</i>	
<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	1459	(<i>Stirling Burghs</i>) ...	1462
<i>Mr. Warner</i> ...	1459	<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i> (<i>Liverpool, Scotland</i>) ...	1462
<i>Mr. Maddison</i> (<i>Sheffield, Brightside</i>) ...	1460	<i>Mr. Kearley</i> (<i>Devonport</i>) ...	1463
<i>Mr. Bartley</i> (<i>Islington, N.</i>)	1461	<i>Mr. J. H. Johnstone</i> (<i>Sussex, Horsham</i>) ...	1463
<i>Mr. Strachey</i> (<i>Somersetshire, S.</i>) ...	1461	<i>Mr. Hemphill</i> (<i>Tyrone, N.</i>)	1463
<i>Mr. Hobhouse</i> (<i>Somersetshire, E.</i>) ...	1462	<i>Mr. Lough</i> ...	1463

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 36, to leave out Sub-section 2 of Clause 16."—(Mr. Davitt.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'negligence,' in line 39, stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	1465	<i>Mr. Pickersgill</i> (<i>Bethnal Green, S.W.</i>) ...	1470
<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i> ...	1465	<i>Mr. Long</i> ...	1471
<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i> ...	1467	<i>Mr. Seely</i> (<i>Lincoln</i>) ...	1472
<i>Mr. Stuart Wortley</i> (<i>Sheffield, Hallam</i>) ...	1467	<i>Mr. J. A. Pease</i> (<i>Northumberland, Tyneside</i>) ...	1473
<i>Mr. Lough</i> ...	1467	<i>Mr. Maddison</i> ...	1473
<i>General Goldsworthy</i> (<i>Hammer-smith</i>) ...	1468	<i>Mr. Sydney Gedge</i> (<i>Walsall</i>) ...	1475
<i>Mr. Robson</i> (<i>South Shields</i>)	1468	<i>Mr. Duckworth</i> (<i>Lancashire, Middleton</i>) ...	1475
<i>Mr. Grant Lawson</i> (<i>Yorks N.R., Thirsk</i>) ...	1470	<i>Mr. Cawley</i> (<i>Lancashire, Prestwich</i>)	1476

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 188 ; Noes, 71. (Division List, No. 287.)

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Amendment proposed, in page 6, line 42, after the word "months," to insert the words—

"(3) Where a person convicted of an offence under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts has been within twelve months previously convicted of another offence under those Acts the Court may, if it thinks fit and finds that he knowingly and wilfully committed both those offences, order that a notice of the facts be affixed in such form and manner and for such period, not exceeding twenty-one days, as the Court may order, to any premises occupied by that person, and that he do pay the costs of such affixing; and if any person obstructs the affixing of any such notice, or removes, defaces, or conceals the notice while affixed during that period, he shall for each offence be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5."—(*Mr. Heywood Johnstone.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	... 1480	<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i> ...	... 1481
<i>Mr. J. H. Johnson</i>	... 1481		

Question put, and negatived.

Other Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 11, after the words last inserted, to insert the words, '(2) Any prosecution under section twenty-seven of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, may be instituted within twelve months from the time when the matter of such proceedings arose.'"—(*Mr. Joseph A. Pease.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> 1482
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 20, to leave out the words from the beginning of Clause 19, to the words 'a warranty,' in line 23."—(*Mr. J. A. Johnstone.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i> ...	... 1483	<i>Mr. John Burns (Battersea)</i> ...	1488
<i>Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District)</i> ...	... 1484	<i>General Laurie (Pembroke and Haverfordwest)</i> ...	1488
<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i> ...	... 1486	<i>Mr. A. C. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomery)</i> ...	1488
<i>Mr. Bryce</i> ...	... 1486	<i>Mr. Alexander Cross (Glasgow, Camlachie)</i> ...	1488
<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i> ...	... 1487	<i>Mr. Spicer (Monmouth Boroughs)</i> 1489	
<i>Mr. J. A. Pease</i> ...	... 1487		
<i>Mr. Radcliffe Cooke (Hereford)</i>	1488		

Question put.

The House Divided :—Ayes, 42 ; Noes, 119. (Division List, No. 288.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Bryce</i> 1491	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i> ...	1491
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Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 30, after the word 'person,' to insert the words, 'Where the defendant in a prosecution under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts has been discharged under the provisions of Section 25 of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, or of Section 7 of the Margarine Act, 1887, as respectively amended by this Act, any proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts for giving the warranty or invoice relied on by the defendant in such prosecution may be taken as well before a Court having jurisdiction in the place where the article of food or drug to which the warranty or invoice relates was purchased for analysis as before a Court having jurisdiction in the place where the warranty or invoice was given.'"—(Mr. Joseph A. Pease.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i>	... 1492	<i>Mr. Long</i> 1492
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Motion made, and Question put, "That the Debate be now adjourned."
—(Sir Charles Cameron.)

The House divided :—Ayes, 28 ; Noes, 113. (Division List, No. 289.)

Original Question again proposed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 34, after the word 'so,' to insert the words: '(3) Where any article of food is sold in tins or bottles in which it has been packed by the manufacturer, a label affixed by the manufacturer or wholesale dealer to such tins or bottles setting forth the nature of their contents, or a circular or advertisement setting forth the nature of the contents of such tins or bottles, and distributed along with them by the manufacturer or wholesale dealer, shall, for the purpose of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, be held to constitute a warranty.'"—(Sir Charles Cameron.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	... 1494	<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i> 1494
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Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 30 ; Noes, 107. (Division List, No. 290.)

Further consideration, as amended, deferred till Monday next.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL—Resolved, That the Statement of the Estimated Income and Expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and Travers' Foundation for the year 1899-1900 be approved—(Mr. Austen Chamberlain.) 1496

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at ten minutes before Two of the clock.

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LORDS: FRIDAY, 21ST JULY 1899.

MARQUESS OF HEADFORT—Petition of Geoffrey Thomas Marquess of Headfort, claiming a right to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House	1497
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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Burgh Police (Scotland) Provisional Order Bill —Moved, “That the Order of the 9th March last, ‘that no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday, the 27th day of June next,’ be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read the second time.”	
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<i>The Chairman of Committees (The Earl of Morley)</i>	1498
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On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the second time accordingly.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 20) Bill —A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee	1498
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Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 20) Bill —Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Glenesk be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bill in the place of the Lord Kenyon; read, and agreed to	1498
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London Improvements Bill —The Queen’s Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	1498
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Belfast Corporation Bill —Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	1498
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Bootle Corporation Bill —Reported, with Amendments	1498
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Menstone Water Bill —Reported, without Amendment	1498
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Bradford Tramways and Improvement Bill —Committee to meet on Friday next	1499
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Newcastle-upon-Tyne Tramways and Improvement Bill —Committee to meet on Thursday next	1499
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Uxbridge and Rickmansworth Railway Bill; London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (No. 2) Bill —Committee to meet on Tuesday next	1499
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West Metropolitan Railway Bill —Committee to meet on Monday next	...	1499
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RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

TREATY SERIES, No. 15 (1899)—Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the delimitation of their respective possessions to the west of the Niger, and of their respective possessions and spheres of influence to the east of that river ; signed at Paris, 14th June, 1898 ; together with a declaration completing the same ; signed at London, 21st March, 1899. (Ratifications exchanged at Paris, 13th June, 1899) 1500
QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK—Annual Report of the President, for the Session 1898-99	... ... ... ... 1500
IRISH LAND COMMISSION—Report of the Commissioners, for the period from 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1899	... ... ... ... 1500
GOVERNMENT LABORATORY—Report of the Principal Chemist of the Government Laboratory upon the work of the Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1899 : with Appendices. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table	... ... ... ... 1500
LONDON CORPORATION.—Annual account of the Chamberlain of London : delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table	... ... 1500
Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill—Brought from the Commons ; read the first time ; to be printed ; and to be read a second time on Monday next—(<i>The Earl of Selborne</i>). (No. 177.)	... ... ... ... 1500
Small Houses (Acquisition of Ownership) Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read 1501
Moved, “That the Bill be now read a second time.” — (<i>The Earl of Selborne</i>.)	

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DISCUSSION:—

<i>The Marquess of Ripon</i> ... 1505	<i>The Marquess of Londonderry</i> ... 1517
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On Question, agreed to.

Bill read a second time accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

Seats for Shop Assistants Bill—[THIRD READING.]—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read 1520

Moved, “That the Bill be now read the third time.”—(*The Duke of Westminster.*)

DISCUSSION:—

<i>The Earl of Wemyss</i> ... 1520	<i>The Lord President of the Council</i> (<i>The Duke of Devonshire</i>) ... 1532
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Amendment moved—

“To leave out ‘now,’ and add at the end of the motion ‘this day three months.’”—*The Lord Wemyss (E. Wemyss).*

On Question, whether the word “now” shall stand part of the motion, resolved in the affirmative; Bill read the third time accordingly, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

University of London Act (1898) Amendment Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”—(*The Lord President of the Council.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill be read a second time (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

QUESTIONS.

REORGANISATION OF THE EDUCATION OFFICE.

<i>The Earl of Morley</i> ... 1524	<i>The Lord President of the Council</i>
<i>The Marquess of Ripon</i> ... 1526	(<i>The Duke of Devonshire</i>) ... 1527
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C.—Total annual cost of pensions in force £	
Capitalised estimated value of the pensions in force, supposing them to represent $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on a sum invested in Government Securities £	
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1899	1909	
1900	1910	
1901	1911	
1902	1912	
1903	1913	
1904	1914	
1905	1915	
1906	1916	
1907	1917	
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Trade Marks Bill —“To amend and consolidate the Law relating to Trade Marks,” presented, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 287] ...	1554

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SUPPLY—[20TH ALLOTTED DAY]—Considered in Committee.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

1. Motion made and Question proposed, “That a sum not exceeding £6,601,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the expense of the Contract Work for Shipbuilding, Repairs, &c., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900.”

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That a sum, not exceeding £6,600,000, be granted for the said service.”—
(*Mr. William Allan.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The First Lord of the Admiralty</i> (<i>Mr. Goschen, St. George's, Hanover-square</i>) ...	1559	<i>Mr. Goschen</i> ...	1563
<i>Sir Fortescue Flannery</i> (<i>Yorkshire, Shipley</i>) ...	1560	<i>Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth (Lancashire, Clitheroe)</i> ...	1564

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

DISCUSSION :—

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3. £2,417,000. Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c.—Personnel.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. E. J. C. Morton (Devonport)</i> ... 1591	<i>Mr. Kearley</i> 1596
<i>Mr. Kearley (Devonport)</i> ... 1591	<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i> ... 1597
<i>Sir J. Baker (Portsmouth)</i> ... 1593	<i>Mr. E. J. C. Morton</i> ... 1598
<i>Viscount Cranborne (Rochester)</i> 1594	<i>Mr. Goschen</i> 1599
<i>Mr. Barnes (Kent, Faversham)</i> ... 1594	<i>Mr. Maddison (Sheffield, Bright-side)</i> 1599
<i>The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)</i> 1595	<i>Admiral Field (Sussex, Eastbourne)</i> 1600
	<i>Mr. Maddison</i> 1600

Vote agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That a sum, not exceeding £261,600, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the expenses of the Admiralty Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1900.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i> ... 1601	<i>Mr. Goschen</i> 1608
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<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i> 1606	
<i>Sir J. Colomb</i> 1606	

Motion made and Question proposed—

“That a sum, not exceeding £261,500, be granted for the said Service.”—
(*Mr. Weir.*)

Mr. Goschen 1614

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put and agreed to.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1899-1900—Motion made, and Question proposed, “That a sum, not exceeding £248,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Arnold-Forster (Belfast, W.)</i> 1614	<i>General Russell (Cheltenham)</i> ... 1628
<i>The Under Secretary of State for War (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)</i> 1618	<i>Captain Norton (Newington, W.)</i> 1632
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<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i> 1623	<i>Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.)</i> ... 1638

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Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That a sum, not exceeding £248,200, be granted for the said service.”—
(*Mr. Pirie.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Colonel Kenyon - Slaney</i>	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury</i>
(<i>Shropshire, Newport</i>) ... 1640	(<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manches-</i>
<i>Mr. Wyndham</i> ... 1642	<i>ter, E.</i>) 1651
<i>Sir John Colomb (Great</i>	<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman</i>
<i>Yarmouth)</i> ... 1646	(<i>Stirling Burghs</i>) 1652

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again.”—
(*Mr. Balfour.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Dillon</i> 1653	<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire,</i>
<i>Colonel Brookfield (Sussex,</i>	<i>E.)</i> 1654
<i>Rye)</i> 1653	<i>Mr. Warner (Staffordshire, Lich-</i>
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i> 1653	<i>field)</i> 1654
<i>Mr. Arnold-Forster</i> ... 1654	

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 68; Noes, 6. (Division List, No. 291.)

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also report progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July,
Mr. Deputy Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at five minutes after One of the clock.

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(AUTHORISED EDITION)

IN THE
**FIFTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, APPOINTED
TO MEET THE 7TH FEBRUARY 1899, IN THE 62ND YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.**

NINTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1899.

E R R A T A
(VOL. LXXIV.)

Page 219, lines 40-44, *read* "I find that of all the boys discharged from Reformatory and Industrial schools during the years 1894-95-96, there were known in 1897 to be in the Army, 1,343; the Navy, 344; and the Mercantile Marine, 959."

Page 219, line 45, *after* "rose," *insert* "in 1898."

Page 219, line 50, *read* "school ships in 1896, out of 703 boys discharged, 382."

An Asterisk () at the comm*
The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION BILL.

BRADFORD TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Reports of Her Majesty's Attorney-General, received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

BURY CORPORATION BILL. [H.L.]

BURY CORPORATION WATER BILL. [H.L.]

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL BILL.

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn: The Orders made on the 30th of June last and on Tuesday last discharged; and Bill committed.

AYR BURGH BILL.

WOKING WATER AND GAS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

VOL. LXXIV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL.

Read 3^d, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^d, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

LEITH HARBOUR AND DOCKS BILL.

Read 3^d, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

Brought from the Commons.

YORKE ESTATE BILL. [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

BARRY RAILWAY BILL.

KENSINGTON AND NOTTING HILL ELECTRIC LIGHTING BILL.

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY (NEW RAILWAYS) BILL.

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

COBHAM GAS BILL. [H.L.]

STRETFORD GAS BILL. [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments : the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Message to the Commons for leave for Thomas Wallace Russell, Esquire (a Member), to attend the Select Committee.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 4) BILL.

House to be in Committee on Tuesday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY.

1882-1893. Notes on the Niger District and Niger Coast Protectorates.

1885, 5th June. Notification—British Protectorate over Niger Districts.

1886, 10th July. Royal Charter—"National African Company."

1887, 18th October. Notification—British Protectorate over Niger Districts, "National African Company," now called "Royal Niger Company."

1884-1892. List of Treaties—National Africa Company and Royal Niger Company with Native Chiefs.

1893, 13th May. Notification—"Oil Rivers Protectorate" to be called the "Niger Coast Protectorate."

Royal Niger Company Balance Sheets—Balance Sheets of the Royal Niger Company for each year from 1887 to 1898 inclusive.

Niger Government (Accounts)—Statements of Revenue and Expenditure from 1887 to 1898 inclusive.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 2309. Spain (Barcelona and District).

No. 2310. Austria-Hungary (Fiume).

No. 2311. Italy (Province of Lecce).

SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Thirty-eighth Annual Report of the Inspectors of Fisheries (for 1898).

SEA FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Inspectors (for 1898).

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT.

Minutes of Committee of Council on Education, sanctioning the subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, for counties of—Worcester (fifth minute); Salop (fourth minute); Rutland (fourth minute); and county boroughs of—South Shields (third minute); Limerick (sixth minute); Limerick (seventh minute).

INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).

Return of all loans raised in India under the provisions of any Acts of Parliament chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended on the 31st March 1899, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, &c.:

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table.

MARRIAGES VALIDITY (No. 2) BILL [H.L.]

A Bill to remove doubts as to the validity of certain marriages—Was presented by the Lord Macnaghten; read 3^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Monday next. (No. 157).

POOR LAW ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1 :—

***LORD HARRIS :** The noble Earl opposite (the Earl of Kimberley) raised a question the other day as to the wisdom of the expression "parent" in Clause 1. The noble Earl pointed out that though one parent might have misbehaved, the other parent might be well behaved, and he questioned the desirability of taking any right away from the latter parent. I am advised by the Local Government Board that the intention and the effect of the Bill certainly is to take away only the powers of the parent who is described in this sub-section. Your Lordships will observe that, under Section 1, the guardians may at any time resolve that, until the child reaches the age of 18 years, all rights and powers of the parent—that is, of course, the parent who has misbehaved—in respect of the child shall, subject, as in the Act mentioned, vest in the guardians. If, however, there is any doubt on the point, the Local Government Board will be prepared in the Standing Committee to put in words to make the effect clear.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 6th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6.)

And the Certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—

WARRINGTON CORPORATION.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION BILL.**BRADFORD TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.**

Reports of Her Majesty's Attorney-General, received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

BURY CORPORATION BILL. [H.L.]**BURY CORPORATION WATER BILL. [H.L.]**

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL BILL.

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn : The Orders made on the 30th of June last and on Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed.

AYR BURGH BILL.**WOKING WATER AND GAS BILL.**

Reported, with Amendments.

LINCOLN AND EAST COAST RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL.

Reported, with Amendment.

VOL. LXXIV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

IONIAN BANK BILL.
Reported, without Amendments.

MIDLAND AND SOUTH-WESTERN JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL.
Reported, with Amendments.

MILLWALL DOCK BILL.

Moved, that the Order made on the 9th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be read 2^a; agreed to; and Bill read 2^a accordingly.

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

LEITH HARBOUR AND DOCKS BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

Brought from the Commons.

YORKE ESTATE BILL. [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

BARRY RAILWAY BILL.**KENSINGTON AND NOTTING HILL ELECTRIC LIGHTING BILL.****LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY (NEW RAILWAYS) BILL.****LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.**

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

COBHAM GAS BILL. [H.L.]**STRETFORD GAS BILL. [H.L.]**

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments : the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Message to the Commons for leave for Thomas Wallace Russell, Esquire (a Member), to attend the Select Committee.

A

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 4) BILL.

House to be in Committee on Tuesday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.**ROYAL NIGER COMPANY.**

1882-1893. Notes on the Niger District and Niger Coast Protectorates.

1885, 5th June. Notification—British Protectorate over Niger Districts.

1886, 10th July. Royal Charter—"National African Company."

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SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Thirty-eighth Annual Report of the Inspectors of Fisheries (for 1898).

SEA FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Inspectors (for 1898).

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SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT.

Minutes of Committee of Council on Education, sanctioning the subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, for counties of—

Worcester (fifth minute); Salop (fourth minute); Rutland (fourth minute); and county boroughs of—South Shields (third minute); Limerick (sixth minute); Limerick (seventh minute).

INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).

Return of all loans raised in India under the provisions of any Acts of Parliament chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended on the 31st March 1899, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, &c.:—

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**MARRIAGES VALIDITY (No. 2) BILL
[H.L.]**

A Bill to remove doubts as to the validity of certain marriages—Was presented by the Lord Macnaghten; read 3^d; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Monday next. (No. 157).

**POOR LAW ACTS AMENDMENT BILL
[H.L.]**

House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1 :—

*LORD HARRIS : The noble Earl opposite (the Earl of Kimberley) raised a question the other day as to the wisdom of the expression "parent" in Clause 1. The noble Earl pointed out that though one parent might have misbehaved, the other parent might be well behaved, and he questioned the desirability of taking any right away from the latter parent. I am advised by the Local Government Board that the intention and the effect of the Bill certainly is to take away only the powers of the parent who is described in this sub-section. Your Lordships will observe that, under Section 1, the guardians may at any time resolve that, until the child reaches the age of 18 years, all rights and powers of the parent—that is, of course, the parent who has misbehaved—in respect of the child shall, subject, as in the Act mentioned, vest in the guardians. If, however, there is any doubt on the point, the Local Government Board will be prepared in the Standing Committee to put in words to make the effect clear.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: One or two Amendments have been suggested to me, and I have informed the noble Lord in charge of the Bill of them, but I think they will be more conveniently dealt with in the Standing Committee. I will not, therefore, trouble the House with any observations at this stage.

LORD HARRIS: The Local Government Board are considering the Amendments submitted by the noble Earl, and will, if necessary, make suggestions in the Standing Committee.

Clause 4 :—

***LORD HARRIS:** The noble Earl also asked me the other day to consider whether it was advisable that the control of the guardians over young persons who had been put out to service should be in any way extended. The Poor Law Apprentices Act makes it the business of the Poor Law Guardians to take care that the young persons placed out by them are visited, up to the age of 16, not less than twice a year, in order to make certain that he or she is receiving proper food, and is not being ill-treated. The Local Government Board still think, in view of the recommendations of many Poor Law Unions, that it would be wise to extend those visits beyond the place of first service. It seems to them that, if it is desirable that young persons should be visited when they first go out to service, that desirability extends whether the boy or girl is in the place of first service or not. It may happen that the child has no parents at all, and no relatives to look after him or her, and it would surely be beneficial, and in the interests of the child, that somebody should take care that he or she is being well treated and well fed. Again, there is the risk of undesirable relatives tempting the child away from the place of first service, in order to deprive the guardians of the power of control. As at present advised, I think it would be wise to leave the Bill as it stands.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: Does this clause relate only to apprenticed children?

***LORD HARRIS:** And to children placed out in service.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I was under a misapprehension the other day,

because I conceived that it related to all children and not to apprenticed children only. With regard to the extension of the law under the Apprenticeship Act, I should be rather disposed, subject to further consideration, to agree with the noble Earl opposite.

Bill reported without Amendment, and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN) BILL. [H.L.]

SUMMARY JURISDICTION ACT (1879) AMENDMENT BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bills to be read 3rd To-morrow.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BILL.

Read 3rd (according to Order), and passed.

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

Read 1st; and to be printed. (No. 158.)

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Five of the clock, till To-morrow, thirty minutes after Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday 6th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [Lords].

Standing Orders applicab'e thereto complied with.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz:—

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL [Lords.]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 13) BILL [Lords.]

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS.

No Standing Orders applicable.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Ordered that the Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

CENTRAL ELECTRIC SUPPLY BILL.**SHIREBROOK AND DISTRICT GAS BILL.****SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE STIPENDIARY JUSTICE BILL.****WEST MIDDLESEX WATER BILL.**

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

ST. JAMES'S AND PALL MALL ELECTRIC LIGHT BILL.

By Order, Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to, with an Amendment.

CHURCH STRETTON WATER BILL [Lords].**LIVERPOOL OVERHEAD RAILWAY BILL [Lords].****ST. NEOTS WATER BILL [Lords].**

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

1 BROOKE'S PARK (LONDONDERRY) BILL [Lords].

By Order, read a second time, and committed.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (FINANCE) BILL [Lords.]

Stamp Duties—Resolution reported :

“ That the Board may from time to time enter into agreements with the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, if the Commissioners in their discretion think proper, for the payment to the Commissioners, by way of composition of Stamp Duty on transfers of any stocks, of such a sum or sums as may from time to time be agreed between the Board and the

Commissioners, and in consideration of such payment transfers of the stock in respect of which such composition has been paid shall be exempt from Stamp Duty.”

Resolution agreed to.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Finance) Bill, That they have power to make provision therein pursuant to the said Resolution.—(Dr. Farquharson.)

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 9) BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

SOUTH HANTS WATER BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP M).

Mr. HARDY reported from the Committee on Group M of Private Bills ; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

That they request that this House will be pleased to give leave to Thomas Wallace Russell, Esq., a Member of this House, to attend in order to his being examined as a witness before the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships in the present session of Parliament on the Dublin Corporation Bill.

Lords Message, respecting the attendance of Mr. T. W. Russell, considered.

And Mr. T. W. Russell, in his place having consented :—Leave given.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.**SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).**

Copy presented, — of Thirty-eighth Annual Report of the Inspectors of Fisheries (England and Wales), for 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

SEA FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented,—of Thirteenth Annual Report of the Inspectors, for 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2309 to 2311 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (MILITARY BULLET).

Return presented,—relative thereto [Address 8th June — *Lord George Hamilton*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 264.]

EAST INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).

Copy presented,—of Return of all Loans raised in India, chargeable on the Revenues of India, outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended on 31st March 1899, &c. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 265.)

PUBLIC RECORDS (WAR DEPARTMENT).

Copy presented of Sixth Schedule, containing a list and particulars of classes of documents existing, or in ordinary course about to exist, in the Office of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Command]—to lie upon the Table.

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY.

Copies presented of—

Notes on the Niger District and Niger Coast Protectorates, 1882-93;

Notification, British Protectorate over Niger Districts, 5th June, 1885;

Royal Charter "National African Company," 10th July, 1886;

Notification British Protectorate over Niger Districts, "National African Company," now called "Royal Niger Company," 18th October, 1887;

List of Treaties, National African Company and Royal Niger Company, with Native Chiefs, 1884-92;

Notification "Oil Rivers Protectorate to be called the Niger Coast Protectorate," 13th May, 1893;

[by Command]—to lie upon the Table.

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY (BALANCE-SHEETS).

Copies presented of Balance-sheets of the Royal Niger Company for each year from 1887 to 1898, inclusive [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NIGER GOVERNMENT.

Copies presented of Statements of Revenue and Expenditure of Niger Government from 1887 to 1898, inclusive [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FISHERY BOARD (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented of Seventeenth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1898. Part III. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CIVIL SERVICE CLERKSHIPS.

(CLASS I.)

Return ordered, "of appointments to Class I. Clerkships in the Civil Service, from 1886 to 1898, inclusive, in the following form:—

Department.	Number of appointments.		
	By promotion from Lower or Second Division.	After Class I. open competition.	From other sources.

—(Mr Tritton.)

QUESTIONS.**TRAMORE BOATSLIP.**

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the Admiralty will consider the advisability of erecting a boatslip at Tramore, County Waterford, for the use of the coastguards and naval reserve men drilled at Tramore.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): It is not considered necessary to construct a boatslip at Tramore.

SOLDIERS AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

MR. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what is the object of the circular issued from the War Office, under date 17th November, 1897, calling attention to paragraph 195, Section 206, of the Queen's Regulations, in respect to teaching soldiers a trade, also of the circular issued 15th February, 1898 ; and whether the Secretary of State for War contemplates allotting annually a sum of money towards the cost of technical instruction to soldiers in the technical schools of the country.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) : The object of the circular referred to was to encourage the soldier, while serving with the colours, to learn a trade which will be of use to him when he returns to civil life. It is not proposed to allot money to local technical schools. Such schools are precluded, by Section 8 of the Technical Instruction Act of 1889, from teaching the practice of any trade or industry to an unskilled artisan.

UNDER-AGE RECRUITS.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that a boy named John Herbert Cairns, on 16th May last, enlisted at Belfast as a private in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and had then to join the dépôt of the regiment in Bodmin, Cornwall ; whether he is aware that Cairns was under eighteen years of age when he enlisted ; will he explain why an application for his release or discharge, enclosing certificate of age, sent by his father to the Commanding Officer at Bodmin, was refused, whereas another older person, enlisted at the same time, was upon application released or discharged ; and whether, under the peculiar circumstances of this case, the father's application will be reconsidered and granted.

MR. WYNDHAM : When a soldier, as in the case of Cairns, makes a false statement of age on enlistment and is subsequently shown to be between seventeen and eighteen years of age, it rests with the General Officer commanding the district to decide whether he shall be discharged or held to serve. In this case

the General, on the recommendation of the officer commanding Cairns' battalion, decided to hold the soldier to his engagement. The other instance referred to cannot be traced without more particulars.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) : Are the parents of young lads communicated with previous to their enlistment ?

MR. WYNDHAM : A boy under seventeen who is enlisted is discharged as a matter of course, but when the age is between seventeen and eighteen we leave the discretion in the hands of the General Officer commanding, because he is in a better position than we are to ascertain circumstances which might induce him to allow the lad to go back to his home.

CANTEEN AND MESS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) : I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office, in respect to the contract for the Cork Military District recently given to the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society, whether he is aware that the contract was given to this society at prices in excess of those quoted by a local contractor ; that 183 articles were quoted by the local firm at prices below those of the Canteen Society, whilst 64 articles were quoted lower in price by the Canteen Society, and of these 64 the consumption is very small ; and whether, in the interests of the soldiers, the War Office authorities will order an investigation into the whole matter.

***THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE** (Mr. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.) : The facts may or may not be as stated in the question of the hon. Member, but the tenders sent in were carefully considered by a board of officers, and the contracts were placed after a thorough examination of the samples submitted for inspection, the quality of the samples being taken into consideration as well as the price. I must repeat that matters relating to these supplies are dealt with by those who are interested in the Canteens, and who are responsible for their proper management, and the Secretary of State is not disposed to interfere with them in the exercise of their discretion.

MR. FLYNN : If I lay before the hon. Gentleman a list which will substantiate the statements in the question, will he look further into the matter ?

*MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS : I will fully consider anything the hon. Member may bring forward.

CAPTAIN DONELAN : Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the Cork shopkeepers contribute towards the maintenance of the Army ?

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order !

MR. FLYNN : I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he is aware that the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society pay a dividend of not less than 5 per cent. to its shareholders ; if so, can it be so described as a provident society of which officers upon active service may act as directors without transgressing the Queen's regulations.

*MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS : The Society pays a dividend of not more than 5 per cent. It is registered as a provident society under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893. It is not contrary to the Queen's regulations for an officer on full pay to act on the committee of management of such a provident society, their individual interest in which is limited by the Act to £200 capital.

PUNJAB—OUTRAGES BY PATHANS ON THE FRONTIER.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether at Peshawar, in March of this year, Colonel Le Marchant, of the Hampshire Regiment, was assassinated, and in April three sentries of the Royal Scots Fusiliers cut off by Pathans ; whether at Cherat, in May of this year, a sergeant was severely wounded by two Pathans and his rifle stolen, and a drummer of the Hampshire Regiment cut off, while strolling outside the camp, and stabbed ; whether in respect of these crimes any reprisals or punishments have been inflicted upon the Pathans ; and, what steps the Government are taking to put a stop to the constant attempts of the natives to murder and rob of their arms British soldiers on the Punjab frontier.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing) : Although I have not received

detailed reports of each of the incidents mentioned in the first and second questions, I have no reason to doubt their accuracy. In the case of the murderers of Colonel Le Marchant and the bandsmen, the punishment of death has been inflicted on the guilty persons. I await information as to the punishments awarded in the other cases. In reply to the last part of the question, I may state that a partial disarmament in the districts of Peshawar, Hazara, and Kohat has been effected as an experimental measure, and if this proves to be ineffectual a total disarmament will be enforced.

BRITISH CONSULAR SERVICE IN CHINA—CONTRIBUTION BY INDIA.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether a sum of £12,500 a year is paid by India to this country for the British Consular Service in China ; and, on what grounds, in the case of the Vice-Consulate at Momien, in China, India has been called on to pay half the expenses of that establishment.

LORD G. HAMILTON : The present arrangement under which India pays £12,500 towards the cost of the British Diplomatic and Consular service in China, and which is subject to reconsideration after the 31st March next, was made in 1890. But under Article XIII of the Burma-China Convention of 1894, it became necessary to provide for a new consular officer at Manwyne ; and since the appointment was in a great measure made in the interests of India, and especially of Indian trade with Bhamo, the Government of India in 1896 accepted the principle of joint liability, with the express understanding that, if Momien was preferred to Manwyne for the consul's residence, the liability would continue.

MADRAS—BANKRUPT ZEMINDARS.

MR. BUCHANAN : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been directed to the Madras Court of Wards Amendment Act, 1899, passed on the 9th of June by the Madras Legislative Council, by which the Court of Wards is empowered to take charge of the estates of bankrupt Zemindars, manage their estates officially, and eventually, when cleared of debt, hand them back to the original proprietors ; and whether, before sanctioning this legis-

lation, he will make inquiry as to the grounds on which this alteration in the laws relating to bankruptcy is made, and one class of proprietors treated differently in the event of insolvency from the vast mass of Indian proprietors.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I have not yet received a copy of the Act referred to in its final form, and can therefore give no undertaking on the subject. But I may say that, so far as my knowledge goes, I do not admit the accuracy of the description of it contained in the question. I believe that it applies only to the estates of persons who, by reason of age, or sex, or otherwise, are incapable of managing their affairs, and not to the whole class of Zemindars, nor to any estates which are so encumbered by debt as to be incapable of restoration by proper management. I also believe that legislation on the lines of this Act is in accordance with the customs and the wishes of the people.

THE HYDROGRAPHICAL CONFERENCE.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state the names of the countries represented at the Conference of the North Sea Powers, and the nature of the instructions given to the British representative.

*THE UNDER - SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The countries represented at the Hydrographical Conference which lately met at Stockholm were : Great Britain, Germany, Russia, The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway. It would be premature to present to Parliament correspondence upon the subject, or the instructions given to the Commissioners till the Report of the British delegates is received.

IMPRISONMENT OF A BRITISH SAILOR AT BILBAO.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the attention of Her Majesty's Government has been directed to the case of Daniel Scott, a British sailor, unable to speak or understand Spanish, who has been in prison for seven months, without trial, at Bilbao, Spain. Whether up till the time of his imprisonment for an alleged assault he held a good character; and whether, as

he has three children dependent on him for support, the Government will take immediate steps to procure his discharge.

*MR. BRODRICK: The case has received, and is receiving, the careful attention of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Scott was arrested at Bilbao on January 29th, 1899, on the charge of being drunk and disorderly. He was further charged with having assaulted the police and gaoler of the lock-up. As he had received serious wounds in the scuffle, he was placed in the first instance in the prison infirmary, whence at the instance of Her Majesty's Consul he was removed for better treatment to the Civil Hospital at Bilbao. He was sent back to the prison as cured on March 2nd. The case was then put down for trial in its proper turn. Repeated representations have been made to the Spanish Government through Her Majesty's Embassy at Madrid with a view to expedite the proceedings. Her Majesty's Government have some time ago authorised the Consul at Bilbao to engage the services of a Spanish lawyer to conduct Scott's defence. A further Report has been telegraphed for.

THE ARMENIAN CHRISTIANS.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he can give any information as to the present serious position of the Armenian Christians in the Provinces of Van, Bitlis, and Ezeroum ; whether any action has been taken by the English and Russian Consuls in the districts referred to to discover the instigators of the recent raids upon Armenian Christians ; and whether any steps have been taken by the British representatives at Constantinople to secure a change in the administration of these provinces.

*MR. BRODRICK: We have heard quite recently that Turkish troops were sent to the Mush plain in search of revolutionists. Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van has just returned there from a journey to Bitlis. According to his account the operations were directed entirely against revolutionists, who were said to be in hiding, the innocent villagers being left undisturbed. Her Majesty's Government have no information as to raids on Armenian Christians, other than revolutionists as stated above, but Her

Majesty's Ambassador will be asked for a further Report.

THE EGYPTIAN EXILES.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL PRYCE-JONES (Montgomery Boroughs) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Toulba Pasha was allowed to return from his exile in Ceylon to Egypt on account of enfeebled health ; and whether, in view of the age of the remaining four exiles, and the complaints which they have made as to the effects of the climate upon their health, Her Majesty's Government will recommend to Lord Cromer to consent to extend the privilege of a change to some other British colony, if a return to Egypt should be still considered unadvisable, in the case of these four old men.

*MR. BRODRICK : Failing health was the chief plea put forward for the return of Toulba Pasha, but he was regarded as probably the least important of the exiles. If the remaining exiles should petition for a transfer to some other British colony the application would be referred to the Egyptian Government for their consideration. The decision does not rest with Lord Cromer.

WEST INDIES—FRUIT TRADE—RUM DUTIES.

MR. W. F. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercrombie) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now state the arrangements made by his Department for the conveyance of fruit from the West Indies, or any of them, to the United Kingdom or to the United States and Canada ; and whether the Returns *re* the local rates on rum manufacture will be ready for presentation before the House rises.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) : A contract has been signed with the Jamaica Fruit and Produce Association for a direct fruit and passenger service between Jamaica and the United Kingdom, to commence in May, 1900. The contract is for a period of five years, and the steamers will be run fortnightly at an average speed of fifteen knots between Kingston and Port Antonio and Southampton. The steamers will be fitted for the conveyance of fruit, and will have storage for at least 20,000 bunches of bananas. They will also possess accommodation for twenty-five

first-class and twelve second-class passengers. The contractors bind themselves *inter alia* to employ at least six agents in Jamaica in developing the fruit industry, to improve the wharf accommodation at Kingston and other ports, and to build one or more hotels in the island. The subsidy payable is £10,000 per annum, of which half will be contributed by the Imperial Government, to be increased to £12,000 if more passenger accommodation is required. A contract will, it is hoped, shortly be concluded with the aid of an Imperial subsidy between the Dominion Government and Messrs. Pickford and Black. The contract is for a period of five years, the service is to begin in July 1900, and the contractors will bind themselves to maintain a fortnightly service from Halifax and St. John's alternately to Trinidad and British Guiana at an average rate of ten knots per hour. The steamer will proceed alternately (1) by way of Bermuda, St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Barbados, Saint Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, to Trinidad and (2) by way of Bermuda, Saint Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad, to British Guiana. No arrangements have at present been made for the remaining service recommended by the West India Royal Commission, viz., a special fruit service between Dominica and Saint Vincent and the United States of America or Canada. I fear that there is no probability of the information being received from all the Colonies in time for the Return to be presented during the present Session. I may remind the hon. Member that the Return is not limited to the manufacture of rum, but extends to the production of spirits of every kind.

LAND ORDINANCES OF CEYLON.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can now distribute to Members the Report of the Governor of Ceylon on the working of the Land Ordinances of 1897 in that island.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : I hope that the papers will be in the hands of Members by the end of next week.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY'S ACCOUNTS.

MR. J. E. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) : I beg to ask the Secretary of

State for the Colonies whether, [as required by Article 17 of its Charter, the British South Africa Company has duly furnished to him accounts of its administrative expenditure and sums received as public revenue for the financial years 1896, 1897, and 1898, and an estimate of such revenue and expenditure for 1899, and whether he will lay them upon the Table; whether, at a recent meeting of the Legislative Council of Rhodesia, the administration stated the administrative expenditure for 1898 had been £783,985, and the public revenue £225,000, or, adding sale of lands, £272,955; what is now the accumulated deficit arising from excess of expenditure over income; and what is the date up to which the last balance sheet of this company was made up and presented by its board of directors to the shareholders.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: (1) I have received the accounts for the financial years ended 31st March, 1896, 31st March, 1897, and 31st March, 1898, and an estimate of expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1899, with a statement of the revenue for that year. I have also received the estimate of expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1900. They will be laid on the Table. (2) I understand that the Administrator has made a statement to this effect with respect to the revenue and expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1899. (3) There is no accumulated deficit. All deficits have been met by the company. (4) The date of the last balance-sheet presented by the directors to the shareholders is 31st March, 1897.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydfil): On behalf of the hon Member for the Eifion Division of Carnarvonshire, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that the expenditure of the British South Africa Company last year exceeded the revenue by £511,000, equal to £51 per head of the estimated white population, and the estimated deficit for the current year is £418,700, Her Majesty's Government contemplate taking any action in reference to the serious condition of the finances of Rhodesia disclosed by these figures.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I understand that the white population of Rhodesia was officially estimated on the

30th of September, 1898, at 13,346, and therefore the deficit for last year would be at the rate of £38, not £51, per head. Her Majesty's Government do not propose to depart from their policy of declining to assume financial responsibility in regard to the affairs of the company.

THE BLOEMFONTEIN CONFERENCE

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the despatches from Sir A. Milner, giving an account of the conference at Bloemfontein, have been received, and when they will be laid upon the Table of the House.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The despatch has been received, but Sir A. Milner states that the notes of the Conference which he transmits are not finally settled, as he was waiting to receive any comments which the Government of the South African Republic might desire to make on them. On the receipt of any corrections of the notes or on information that they require no correction, the despatch and its enclosures can be laid on the Table if desired, but I imagine that the House will probably think that it is not desirable in the present state of the proceedings.

MR. DILLON: Is it not a fact that the Dutch version of the proceedings of the conference, which, I understand, was verbatim the same as the English version, was published in Pretoria three weeks ago? Surely the information given at Pretoria three weeks ago ought to be given now in the House of Commons?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I am not aware whether that is so or not. At any rate the facts are as I stated. Sir Alfred Milner has informed me that he has submitted his notes for correction to the Government of the South African Republic, and I should not like in any case to take the responsibility of publishing them until the answer has been received from the Government of the South African Republic. And I have further stated that, in the present state of matters, while negotiations are still proceeding, although they are not official negotiations, and until the result of those negotiations is known, I do not myself propose, unless I am pressed by hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite, to publish any further Papers.

MR. DILLON : As I take a very strong view of this subject, I will repeat this question in a week, trusting that the right hon. Gentleman will have received by that time—— [Cries of "Order."]

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) : On a point of order, Sir, is the hon. Member entitled to give his reasons?

MR. DILLON : I am not giving reasons.

***MR. SPEAKER :** The hon. Member is not entitled to do more—and that only by the courtesy of the House—than to give notice that he will repeat his question.

MR. DILLON : I was not going to give reasons. I was only going to state in a sentence the reason why—— [Cries of "Order."]

***MR. SPEAKER :** The hon. Member will see that it is impossible for hon. Members to go into the reasons which lead them to put down their questions.

MR. DILLON : Then I will simply say that I shall repeat my question on this day week.

VENTILATION ON THE UNDER-GROUND RAILWAY.

MR. WEIR : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, in view of the fact that the system of blow-holes, for the better ventilation of the Metropolitan Underground Railways, as recommended by Sir Wolfe Barry and the late Sir John Baker, has proved a failure, will he state whether any steps are being taken to provide fans as a means of improving the atmosphere in the tunnels; and whether any effort is being made to introduce electric traction on these lines.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) : No, Sir, fans are not being provided on the Metropolitan Underground Railways; the companies are not prepared to admit that the blow-hole system has proved a failure. On the other hand, experiments are being made between Earl's Court and High Street, Kensington, with the object of introducing electric traction, and I am informed that such experiments will be actively prosecuted.

MR. WEIR : Is the right hon. Gentleman not aware that the Departmental Committee, appointed by himself two or three years ago, distinctly showed that these blow-holes were an utter and absolute failure?

***MR. SPEAKER :** Order, order!

THE AUSTRAL CYCLE AGENCY.

MR. FLYNN : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, in reference to the winding-up of the Austral Cycle Agency (Limited), whether he is aware that no annual meetings of the company have ever been held, and no statements of the accounts of the company placed before the shareholders, and no account given by the directors of the way in which the capital of the company (£100,000) has been used; have any steps been taken to compel these returns; and whether he can say if this is one of the companies promoted by Mr. E. T. Hooley.

MR. RITCHIE : No, Sir, I am unable to give information as to the first and third paragraphs of this question. The Board have no power to compel the company to make such returns, this being, as I have already informed the hon. Member, a voluntary liquidation, and therefore not subject to the supervision of the Board of Trade.

MR. FLYNN : Has the Board of Trade no power in reference to cases of this kind?

MR. RITCHIE : Not where the winding-up is voluntary.

BOATING DISASTER AT PWLLHELI.

MR. LLOYD - GEORGE (Carnarvon, &c.) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Corporation of Pwllheli, in the year 1897, sought Parliamentary powers to enable them to regulate the number of passengers allowed to be carried by pleasure boats in their district; and that the Committee of the House of Lords struck out the clause containing such powers: and whether, if the Corporation promote a Bill containing a similar clause in the ensuing session of Parliament, the Board of Trade will support the measure.

MR. RITCHIE : There was a clause in the Bill introduced by the Corporation of Pwllheli in 1897, providing for licences

for pleasure boats which would possibly have enabled the Corporation to regulate the number of passengers to be carried by such boats in their district. It appears that this clause was struck out of the Bill while it was before the House of Commons, but I am not aware of the reasons. Having regard to the provisions of Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1875, I am not of opinion that any legislative sanction is necessary to enable the Corporation to make bye-laws to regulate the number of passengers to be carried by pleasure boats.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Was it not struck out in the House of Lords?

MR. RITCHIE: My information is that it was struck out in the Commons.

THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (York): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that, owing to the necessity of providing pensions for old servants, the Meteorological Office is about to cut down its expenses by withdrawing the small payments made at York and other stations; and whether, in view of the important national work done by the Meteorological Office, he can see his way to increase the present Government Grant, which is only £15,300 a year.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): I have no reason to suppose that there is any necessity for an increase in the Grant for this purpose, and I have received no application from the Royal Society on the subject. Her Majesty's Government do not interfere with the mode in which the Grant is expended.

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY'S TREATIES.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any of the 300 treaties, and if so how many, entered into between the Royal Niger Company and kings and chiefs in West African territories, will be included in the promised Papers dealing with the abrogation of the company's charter and the purchase of its interests by Her Majesty's Government.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: It is not possible to give full details of the Treaties, of which there are many hundreds. But a

complete list of the treaties and of the forms in which they are drawn is given in Hertslet's Map of Africa by Treaty, Vol. I., pages 450-480 — which is in the library, and a reprint of this section will be included in the Papers to be presented to Parliament.

ROTTEN ROW.

MR. CARLILE (Bucks, N.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if he is aware that in Rotten Row the mud pits are cleaned out, and carting going on, and the ground scraped and raked during the time when the Row is full, viz., from ten till twelve in the morning, and inconvenience caused thereby; and whether this work could be done in the afternoon, or very early morning, when no one is riding.

AN HON. MEMBER: Will the right hon. Gentleman also give instructions that where excavations do take place the débris shall be removed at once, instead of being left for two or three days?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): In reply to my hon. friend, I have to say that usually, and as far as possible, the gullies in Rotten Row are cleared out in the early morning and late afternoon; but after heavy rain (as on the occasion in question) the work has to proceed all day. I will inquire if any further action can be taken to meet the wishes of the hon. Member. I am informed that the débris is removed daily.

FAIRFIELD ROAD, BRISTOL, HIGHER GRADE SCHOOL.

SIR WILLIAM WILLS (Bristol, E.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, if he will explain on what grounds the Science and Art Department has declined to recognise the Fairfield Road (Bristol) Higher Grade School (which was erected with the sanction of the Education Department) as a school of science, although it is equipped and staffed and at present doing the work of a science school.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University): The Science and Art Department has not declined to recognise the

Fairfield Road (Bristol) Higher Grade School as a school of science. It appears that the maintenance by a school board of a school of science at the expense of the school rate is illegal ; and the department are therefore awaiting the result of negotiations between the School Board and County Council of Bristol, which they hope will result in the provision of funds which may legitimately be applied to that purpose.

LIVERPOOL POST OFFICE CASHIER.

MR. STOCK (Liverpool, Walton) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he has received memorials dated 29th July, 1898, and 24th November, 1898, from about 260 members of the postal establishment at Liverpool protesting against the transfer of the position of cashier in the Liverpool Post Office from the postal to the telegraph department; will he explain why no communication whatever on the subject has been made to the staff since the memorial dated July was formally acknowledged by the Secretary to the Department, and that the memorial dated November has not even been acknowledged ; and, whether, as the suspension of the Postmaster-General's decision is causing much concern to the staff, who regard the matter as one of great importance, he will give a date when the petitioners may expect a reply.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston) : The memorials of July and November were duly received. It was only in the month of June previous that a full answer was given on the same subject to a memorial dated the 13th May ; and the Postmaster-General is not able to add anything to what he then said. Other proposals regarding the Liverpool office are, however, under his consideration, and these may affect the position of the memorialists. It may be added that no vacancy has yet arisen in the post referred to, and that the transfer has therefore had no effect at present upon the postal staff.

TELEGRAPHISTS' CONFERENCE AT BELFAST.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General,

with reference to the recent conference by postal telegraph clerks held in Belfast, will he explain why a general permission to delegates to inspect the system of working and the internal arrangements of the telegraph department of the post office in Belfast was declined, and an intimation conveyed that only to such delegates as came fortified with individual letters of introduction would the privilege be accorded, although in places in which the conference was previously held, including Belfast in 1885 and Dublin 1897, this request was granted ; and whether he is aware that the conference was composed of delegates, many of whom were men of long service and varied experience, from every important office in the kingdom.

MR. HANBURY : The authorities in Ireland declined to give a general permission to the conference of telegraphists to visit the instrument room at Belfast, as they were of opinion that it might give rise to inconvenience and that no useful purpose would be served. The Postmaster-General has not considered it necessary to inquire what was the service or experience of the delegates.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state the dates of the two competitions to fill the place of assistant in the South Kensington Museum (Art Branch), at which Mr. Herbert Caleb Andrews passed in the obligatory subjects ; whether the result of these examinations was gazetted, and, if so, when ; why it was that Mr. Andrews did not get a certificate as the result of either of these examinations ; and whether any precedent exists for the issue of a Civil Service certificate in the circumstances under which Mr. Andrews obtained it.

*MR. HANBURY : The two competitions were held in February, 1897, and June, 1898, and the results were gazetted on 2nd March, 1897 and 5th July, 1898. Mr. Andrews was not successful at either examination, although he qualified at both, and therefore no certificate was then issued to him. It has been the practice of the Civil Service Commissioners that, if only one candidate enters for an open competition, he should, if qualified, receive the appointment in question. It has also been the practice

not to re-examine a candidate who has qualified at a previous examination.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what was the cost of printing the Minutes of Proceedings of the Royal Commission on the Metropolitan Water Supply, and how many copies of such Minutes were printed; why the Kent authorities who appeared before the Commission have been charged the sum of £165 for each of the two copies of such Minutes obtained by them; and whether some means can be provided whereby the proceedings of Royal Commissions can be obtained at a less expense than has been incurred in the present case.

***MR. HANBURY**: No official Minutes have as yet been published. The hon. Member probably refers to certain reports which were taken as a private arrangement by parties interested, and for which the Government has, of course, no responsibility whatever. The official Minutes will shortly be issued as an ordinary Blue Book.

SCOTTISH COUNTY ROLLS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, whether the Secretary for Scotland will consider the expediency of making arrangements under which his Department may be in possession of the valuation roll for each county in Scotland.

***THE LORD ADVOCATE** (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): So far back as 1888 the then Secretary for Scotland endeavoured to arrange for the delivery of the County Rolls of Scotland at the Scottish Office, but, on inquiry, it was found that there were practical difficulties in the way of carrying out such an arrangement, in respect that some of the counties do not print their rolls. As a matter of fact it has not been found necessary to have them in the Scottish Office, as a copy of any particular county roll can, if required, always be obtained.

RATE COLLECTION IN THE ISLAND OF LEWIS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state what system is adopted for securing the payment of rates in the Island of Lewis and Lochbroom, on the western mainland of Ross-shire,

and in what respect it differs from the system adopted in other parts of the County of Ross and Cromarty where the rates are successfully collected; and if he will state how many of the 2,688 persons disfranchised in the county for failure to pay rates before the 20th June, 1898, paid their rates four months subsequent to that date.

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY**: The system of collecting rates is locally arranged, and is not under the control of any department of Government; I have, therefore, no definite information on the subject. I have communicated with the Local Government Board, but there is no information in that Department which would enable me to reply to the question.

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS IN SCOTLAND.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether it is the practice of inspectors of schools in Scotland to visit each school in their respective districts on at least two separate occasions during the year; and whether care will be taken that the schools in Wester Ross are inspected on two separate occasions during the current year.

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY**: Every effort will be made to have two visits of inspection to each school in the course of the year, and at times even more than two visits may be desirable; but it is obviously impossible to give a pledge that this will be the universal practice in all schools.

VACCINATION FINES AT CHESTERFIELD.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the decision of the magistrates at the Chesterfield Borough Police Court on Thursday, 22nd June last, whereby three men were each fined 5s. for neglecting to have their children vaccinated, besides having to pay 7s. costs and 20s. for the vaccination officer, amounting in all to the sum of £1 12s. each; whether this is in accordance with an instruction from the Local Government Board; and whether the course adopted by the magistrates is a legal one.

***THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT** (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool):

The total amount of fines and costs which the defendants were ordered to pay was in one case 32s., in another 24s. 6d., and in the third 22s. 6d. The Local Government Board did not, and could not, give any instructions in such a matter to the magistrates. I see nothing illegal in the manner these cases were dealt with.

FRUIT PRESERVING TRADE—WOMEN OVERTIME.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances he has made his order extending the special exception for the employment of women overtime to the washing of bottles for use in the preserving of fruit; and by what evidence it has been proved to his satisfaction that such employment will not injure the health of the women employed.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The process in question having been regarded as outside the Factory Acts, there has hitherto been no restriction on overtime employment. Recently I was advised that the Factory Acts applied to this process, and gave directions that they should be enforced; but, as I was satisfied that there is unavoidably a severe press of work at certain seasons, I have granted the limited overtime which is enjoyed by other season trades—an hour and a half on thirty days in the year. The Chief Inspector reports that there is nothing in the nature of the employment which could render this small amount of overtime injurious to the women employed. It is a very slight concession as against the restriction of hours now for the first time insisted on.

APPEAL UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the dismissal of an appeal in which Her Majesty's Inspector of Factories, Miss Paterson, was the appellant, and the Donegal Fishing Company were the respondents, in the Appeal Court, Dublin, on the ground that notice of appeal, with a copy of the case, had not been lodged with the respondents three days after the case was received; what was the reason for the non-fulfilment of this statutory requirement; and what was the amount of the costs.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have received a report from the Lord-Lieutenant with regard to the failure of the appeal mentioned in the question. It appears to have been due to the failure of the Sessional Crown Solicitor to serve the necessary notice on the respondents' solicitor before filing the case at court. The Attorney-General has called upon the solicitor for an explanation. The costs have not yet been ascertained, but will probably not exceed £10.

MR. TENNANT: I will put a further question on this.

POLICE COURT PERJURY.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: On behalf of the hon. Member for the Eifion Division of Carnarvonshire, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the statements made by the Stipendiary Magistrate at the Southwark Police Court, at the conclusion of a case tried before him on Monday last, that it was perfectly clear that some of the witnesses had come to the court to commit wilful downright absolute perjury, and that there was no doubt that perjury of this kind went on every day at every police court; and whether Her Majesty's Government will introduce legislation for the more summary punishment of the perjury which is alleged by the magistrate to be prevalent in English police courts.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have seen a report of the magistrate's remarks. I do not see my way to promote legislation to make convictions for perjury easier, the difficulty now experienced in securing such convictions being the difficulty of obtaining sufficient evidence.

LEAD POISONING.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): On behalf of the hon. Member for Hanley I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is in a position to state the results of the monthly examinations of women and young persons employed in processes of pottery where lead compounds are used for the six months of the current year, compared with the like period of 1898 before the examinations were instituted; and will he also say what has been the experience during the same comparative periods of other trades.

subject to plumbism where no such periodical examinations of the workers are required as those provided for by the Home Office Rules of last year.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Comparing the first six months of 1898 with the first six months of 1899 it appears that the number of reported cases of lead poisoning in the china and earthenware industry has diminished from 223 to 160, while as regards notification of lead poisoning generally there has been some increase in the number of reported cases. The diminution in the china and earthenware industry is probably due, in part at any rate, to the monthly medical examination.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: Do not the figures vary much from month to month, so as to render any comparison fallacious?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Undoubtedly there is a great variation, but I think on the whole there is a satisfactory decrease in regard to the earthenware industry.

MR. TENNANT: Is it not the fact that the monthly examination produced such poor results that new rules had to be issued last year?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The figures which I have given refer rather to the pottery than to the white lead industry.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: On behalf of the hon. Member for Hanley, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is now able to give an analysis of the official statistics of lead poisoning, distinguishing the cases of a serious, slight, or doubtful character.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Of the 160 cases of lead poisoning reported in the china and earthenware industry 77 are classed as slight, 72 as moderate or severe, and in 11 cases the degree of severity is not stated. Out of the 160 cases 22 may be regarded as doubtful, on the ground that the certifying surgeon did not consider that there were unmistakable symptoms of lead poisoning. It must be remembered that the occupier sometimes reports cases in which a medical man has not been consulted.

WEST HAM WARD DIVISIONS.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department if he has received a request from the Town Council of West Ham asking that action on the proposed division of wards might be indefinitely postponed, on the ground that the Council, by 25 votes to 11, takes a different view from that entertained by their predecessors; and what course he proposes to take.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Yes, I have received such a request this morning, but see no reason for departing from the decision which has been arrived at after careful consideration.

OMAGH TOWN COMMISSIONERS.

MR. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Town Commissioners of Omagh addressed to the Local Government Board a petition to have their town constituted an urban sanitary authority, and in reply were informed that the opinion of the Tyrone County Council should be elicited as to the proposal; is he aware that the Tyrone County Council, by unanimous voice, gave its endorsement to the petition of the Omagh Town Commissioners; and will he state the cause of delay on the part of the Local Government Board in granting to a town of 5,000 inhabitants the sanitary powers necessary to its welfare.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The facts are as stated in the first paragraph of this question. It was always the practice of the Local Government Board before constituting towns as road authorities under the Public Health Act, to afford grand juries an opportunity of expressing their views upon such proposal, which, if carried into effect, deprived them of their jurisdiction over the urban areas. For the same reason the Board think it right to give the county councils an opportunity of appearing at the inquiries and expressing their opinions upon any application made by the towns under Section 42 of the Local Government Act. I believe the Tyrone Council is in favour of the proposal, and if this is so they probably will not think it necessary to be represented at the inquiry. The delay in holding the inquiry is caused by the fact that a large number of similar applications have to be dealt with, and these must be taken in turn.

TYPHUS FEVER IN COUNTY GALWAY.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the several cases of fever, said to be typhus, in the neighbourhood of Spiddal, County Galway; whether any steps have been taken by the sanitary authorities as to the sanitary condition of the houses and the purity of the water supply; and whether he will state the number of deaths from fever in the said district for the last twelve months.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Local Government Board have been informed by the medical officer of the district that there have been eight cases of typhus fever in the district during the past nine months, which is the period for which he has been in charge, and that one death from fever has occurred during the same period. There are no cases of typhus fever, however, at present in the district. On the 16th June the Board received from their medical inspector a report on the condition of the district, and they have communicated with the sanitary authorities on the subject urging them to remedy forthwith all sanitary defects in the district.

IRISH LOAN FUNDS—CHARITABLE LOANS BILL.

MR. ARCHDALE (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to a letter from Mr. Young, late inspector of loan funds in Ireland; and whether, taking into account the fact that so many of the poorer and industrial classes in Ireland, both debenture holders in and borrowers from the loan funds, have been ruined by the gross mismanagement of the local offices, and as the letter referred to now discloses, by the neglect of the Central Board in Dublin appointed by Government, he will endeavour to bring in the Charitable Loans (Ireland) Bill, or some other Bill, by which the loan fund victims may recover some of their loss.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The abuses in the working of the Loan Fund Societies were disclosed, not by the reports of the late inspector, but by the report of the committee appointed to

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inquire into the system. The object of the Charitable Loans Bill is to provide means for the more effectual recovery of outstanding debts in connection with these societies; but if the Bill is opposed there is little hope, I am afraid, that the Government will be able to pass it through Parliament during the present session.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE (BELFAST).

MR. PINKERTON (Galway): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the Government has received a claim from any representative body in Ulster in favour of limiting the appointment of President of Queen's College, Belfast, to Presbyterians or Presbyterian divines; and whether that claim has been conceded, or is the appointment open to Catholics.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am not aware that a claim, such as is referred to in the first paragraph, has been received at any time by the Irish Government; certainly no such claim has been received by the present Government. The appointment is open to Roman Catholics.

CASHEL PRINTING CONTRACT.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the printing for the urban council of the City of Cashel, County Tipperary, is now being done at a distance of twelve miles, whereas it could be more promptly and economically done in the office of the local newspaper, the *Cashel Sentinel*; and whether the proprietor of that journal, as a member of the urban council, is legally entitled to insert the council's advertisements in his paper, but debarred from doing any general printing for the council.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am not in a position to express any opinion as to whether the printing for the Cashel Urban District Council could be more promptly and more economically done at the office of the newspaper mentioned than by the printing firm now engaged upon the work. The provisions of Article 12 (4) and (5) of the Application of Enactments Order appear to be correctly interpreted in the second paragraph of the question.

RENTS IN COUNTY TYRONE.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant

of Ireland whether he has observed that, in the case of Patrick MacNeill, Pink Schedule dated 16th February, 1899, 15 per cent. is added to the rent for proximity to Moy, County Tyrone; and in the case of A. M'Kenzie, Pink Schedule dated 19th July, 1898, no percentage is added for proximity to Moy, although both farms are equi-distant from the town of Moy, which has less than 1,000 inhabitants; and whether he can explain this difference of procedure in fixing fair rents.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: A reference to the Chairman of the Sub-Commission is necessary in order to obtain a report as to the facts of the two cases mentioned, and I would ask the hon. Member to repeat the question this day week.

LORD DILLON'S ESTATE.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can now state the gross and net rental of Lord Dillon's estate purchased by the Congested Districts Board, and the purpose for which the mansion house in County Roscommon is being rebuilt.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The gross rental of this estate in the year 1898 was £20,295. The net rental in the same year was £16,639, and the deductions by which this amount is arrived at include an annual charge of £1,000 which will expire in November next. The house was in course of completion, and was nearly finished, at the date of the agreement to purchase. It will be finished at Lord Dillon's expense. The Board have not yet considered the question of its disposal.

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

MR. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has any objection to grant a Return setting forth the number of county council seats contested in the County of Monaghan at the recent elections, setting forth the names of the candidates, together with their politics, if ascertainable, and the number of votes received by each candidate.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Printed notices containing the names of the candidates, and the number of votes recorded for each, have been placarded in every

electoral division of the county. It is not proposed to lay a copy of these notices on the Table of the House. I have no official knowledge of the politics of the candidates.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURCHARGES IN IRELAND.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what right of appeal exists in Ireland against surcharges made by the auditors appointed by the Local Government Board; and have the people of Ireland the same right of appeal against such surcharges as is possessed by the people of Great Britain where surcharges are made by auditors appointed by the Local Government Board.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1898, persons aggrieved by the decisions of auditors in Ireland have practically the same right of appeal as exists in England; that is to say, they may appeal against surcharges either to the Local Government Board or to the Court of Queen's Bench.

IRISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he can state how soon he intends to ask the House to make provision for the increased funds, which he declared at the beginning of the present session it was the intention of the Government to propose should be added to the present revenues of the Congested Districts Board.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Bill dealing with this subject is nearly ready, and I propose to introduce it shortly. In addition to making provision for increased funds there will be included in the Bill some Amendments of the provisions of the Land Act of 1896, so far as these affect the Congested Districts Board; but it is not proposed that the Bill shall contain anything of a contentious nature.

IRISH TITHE RENT-CHARGE BILL.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland when the Treasury Memorandum on the Irish Tithe Rent-charge Bill will be circulated.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Memorandum is not yet quite ready. Perhaps the

hon. Member will repeat the question on Monday next. I think it has any relation to the question on the Paper.

THE TRANSVAAL AND ARBITRATION.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether in view of the recent recommendation of Professor Westlake to leave the questions at issue between this country and the Transvaal to jurists chosen by the parties and an umpire named by those jurists, the Government would, in the event of failure of the present negotiations, propose this form of arbitration before proceeding to extremities.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) : The question of the hon. Member refers to a case which has not yet arisen, and I do not think this is an appropriate time to make a statement of policy on such a hypothetical case.

NEW CHANCERY JUDGE.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the name of the gentleman whom it is in contemplation to appoint as an additional Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court will be communicated to the House of Commons before the House is invited to vote public funds for the establishment of this additional judgeship.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : No, Sir ; to do so would be contrary to all precedent.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL : Was not the course I suggest followed in the case of the appointment of Judge O'Hagan ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : That appointment of a Judge in the High Court of Ireland was of an exceptional character, and certainly does not carry with it the general principle which the hon. Member assumes.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL : Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Pigott Commissioners—

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order !

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent) : Has the right hon. Gentleman seen the report of the Bar Committee, which points out a great waste of judicial time ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I answered a question as to that on Tuesday. I do not

IRISH SUPPLY.

MR. DILLON : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury how soon he will be able to give time for the discussion of the remaining Irish Votes, including the Votes for the Land Commission, the Chief Secretary's salary, the Constabulary, National Education, and the Industrial Schools.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I do not think it will be possible in the remaining time at our disposal to add to the three days already given to Irish Supply. At least I do not see my way to do it at present.

MR. DILLON : Does the right hon. Gentleman propose to take the Votes for the Chief Secretary's salary, the Land Commission, and the Constabulary without discussion ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : The hon. Member is aware that three days have been devoted to Irish Supply, and in those days the Irish Members have settled the order in which the Votes should come on and the time devoted to the discussion of them.

MR. T. M. HEALY : As the Irish Constabulary Vote has not been discussed for some time, and as considerable feeling exists among the men on some points, the right hon. Gentleman might see that, at any rate as regards that Vote, further time is given.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I cannot give a promise on the subject, though, of course, I desire that all the important Votes should be discussed, if possible. But I will bear in mind what the hon. and learned Member has said.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL : Is it not the fact that the Constabulary Vote has not been discussed for three years ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I quite accept the statement of the hon. Member ; but if the Vote has not been discussed it is not the fault of the Government.

EARL GREY AND PRESIDENT KRUGER.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been directed to a speech delivered by Earl Grey, when

presiding at a meeting of the South African Association, held at Newcastle on Monday evening, in which Earl Grey referred thus to the President of the South African Republic: "On no occasion had President Kruger ever shown himself amenable to moral persuasion ; experience taught them that he yielded to no argument but force"; whether he is aware that Earl Grey is, under the charter of the South African Chartered Company, a life director of that company and is also Administrator of Rhodesia ; and whether any steps will be taken to bring to justice Earl Grey and other persons engaged in this country in attacking the President of the South African Republic, and disturbing the friendship between this country and the South African Republic. In putting the question, may I state that in the alterations which have been made in the form of the question to bring it into order, its statements have been made historically inaccurate. I said that Earl Grey had been the Administrator of Rhodesia ; I was not such a fool as to say that he was so now.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : There is nothing in Lord Grey's words which seems to call for intervention, either on the part of the Government or on the part of a court of law.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) : Will the Home Office Vote be the first Vote taken to-morrow ? Also, what Supply will be taken to-morrow week ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I am reluctant to say what class of Supply will be taken to-morrow week, but if the right hon. Gentleman will ask me a question on Monday, I will endeavour to answer it. As regards to-morrow, we must get the English Votes in Class III. I am very anxious to bring on the Home Office Vote at a reasonable time. I think arrangements may be made with those most interested in these Votes by which it may be brought on at a time which would ensure its discussion.

MR. WEIR : Does the right hon. Gentleman propose to take the Scotch Votes in Class III. to-morrow ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION—(MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN)—TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS—ROYAL NIGER COMPANY.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : I ask the leave of the House to explain some answers which I gave yesterday, and which seem to have been the subject of some misapprehension. In answer to the hon. Baronet, the Member for the Northwich Division of Cheshire, I said that the High Commissioner was in communication with the Cape Ministers, and then to the hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division of Nottingham, who asked me a supplementary question, which I am afraid I rather inadvertently answered without notice, I said that we had not received any representations from the Cape Government. I intended by the two answers to convey that, while the High Commissioner was in communication with the Cape Government, and, therefore, of course, aware of their views, no formal representations had been received by Her Majesty's Government. I have heard to-day from Sir Alfred Milner that Mr. Schreiner, the Prime Minister of the Cape, wishes it to be known that the Cape Ministry have made several representations through the High Commissioner, and have only abstained from addressing formal minutes for communication to Her Majesty's Government because they were convinced that independently of formal communications their views were known to Her Majesty's Government. I have also to ask leave to make a personal statement on quite a different matter. I observe from the newspapers to-day that I am stated to be one of the largest shareholders of the Royal Niger Company, and one or more of these newspapers states that I am thus in the position of a vendor and a vendee. I doubt very much whether any cause is served by insinuations on the honour of public men ; but in any case I desire to state exactly what my position in the matter is. When the National African Company, which was the parent of the Royal Niger Company, was formed seventeen years ago, I applied for shares, and a certain allotment was made to me. As it was less than the application I made, I subsequently increased my holding to 1,500 shares. There seems to be a misapprehension as to the value of this investment, because there are two classes of shares in the company —one of £10, fully paid up, and the other £2 only paid up. My allotment

was the £2 shares, and my total investment was of the smaller amount—£3,000. I may say, in passing, that it would be difficult for any hon. Member of this House to invest in anything which might not at some time or other be the subject of discussion in this House. But when the question of the possible revocation of the charter came before the Government I took the opportunity to inform the Prime Minister and my colleagues of the fact that I had some interest in the company; and I begged, therefore, to be excused from offering any opinion on the transaction, and from taking any part whatever in any negotiations which might subsequently take place. Accordingly these negotiations have been entirely in the hands of my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and I did not know of the result until the matter was substantially settled. In the House of Commons the other night I voted on the Resolution in Committee under the belief that that was merely a formal proceeding intended to introduce the matter to the consideration of the House. I believe it has been ruled by you, Sir, and by your predecessors, that holding as a shareholder in any liability company does not disable an hon. Member from taking part in discussions which may subsequently arise in which the company in which he is interested may be concerned. But for myself I have always intended that in the future stages of this proceeding I would not take any part whatever, either in discussion or in the matter of vote. I have only to say, in conclusion, that if I were free to vote according to my own personal interest I should vote against the transaction, because I believe the shareholders will find it more to their advantage to be allowed to continue to carry out the operations in which they are engaged. I thought it right to make that explanation to the House.

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION, ETC.) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 266.)

Minutes of the proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. No. (266.)

Bill, as amended in the Standing Committee, to be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 263.)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to,—

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 7) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 8) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 11) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (GAS) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (POOR LAW) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 1) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDERS (HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES (No. 2) BILL.

Without Amendment.

ANCHORS AND CHAIN CABLES BILL.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL.

With Amendments.

Amendments to—

INVERNESS HARBOUR BILL [Lords].

With an Amendment.

MANCHESTER CANONRIES BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 262.)

METROPOLITAN POLICE (SALARIES) BILL.

***SIR M. W. RIDLEY:** I have to ask leave to introduce a Bill to amend the law with respect to the salaries and allow-

ances of the Commissioner, Receiver, and Assistant-Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police. I may state shortly that at present the Commissioner and Receiver and two Assistant-Commissioners have fixed salaries, limited by Act of Parliament and payable on the Votes, while the salary of one of the Assistant-Commissioners is paid out of the Police Fund. In addition these officers receive certain allowances paid partly out of the Votes and partly out of the Police Fund. The object of the Bill is to abolish these allowances, with the exception of an allowance for horse keep. It is proposed to charge the whole of the salaries of the Commissioner and Receiver on the Vote, and the salary of the Assistant-Commissioners partly on the Votes and partly on the Police Fund. I may add that the total charge of these salaries, as well as the proportion between the sums chargeable on the Votes and on the Police Fund, will not be materially changed.

METROPOLITAN POLICE (SALARIES).

Bill to amend the Law with respect to the Salaries and Allowances of the Commissioner, Receiver, and Assistant Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police, ordered to be brought in by Sir Matthew White Ridley and Mr. Jesse Collings.

METROPOLITAN POLICE (SALARIES) BILL.

"To amend the Law with respect to the Salaries and Allowances of the Commissioner, Receiver, and Assistant Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. (Bill 264.)

LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL.

Lords' Amendments considered.

Lords' Amendment, in page 1, line 19, to leave out from "councillors," to the end of the sub-section, and insert "provided that no woman shall be eligible for any such office" the first Amendment, read a second time.

*MR. COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin): I have first to apologise to the House that the Amendment which I propose to submit does not appear on the Paper. I had intended that it should be circulated this morning, and it is entirely through a mis-

understanding that it has miscarried. Still it is so very simple that I trust no one will be inconvenienced. The Lords by the Amendment which they have inserted in the Bill have disabled women from filling the office of aldermen or councillors. That is in reality cutting them off from a privilege they now enjoy. I propose to consent to the Lords' Amendment as far as it relates to the office of alderman, and to insist on maintaining the view of the House in respect of the office of elected councillors. At this moment women are eligible to sit, and do sit, as members of the London vestries—the very bodies which are to be transformed under this Bill into the London municipal corporations—and if the Amendment which I intend to propose is accepted, the result will simply be to maintain women in the position they now occupy, and to enable them to continue to discharge the functions which they now discharge, and to perform the duties they now perform. Perhaps I may be permitted to make a short survey of the situation when this Bill left the House. We had voted on the question of the eligibility of women to fill these offices, and the result in Committee was such a state of confusion that it was determined the issue should be decided on the Report stage. Accordingly, on that stage I submitted to the House a proposition that neither sex nor marriage should disable women from being aldermen or councillors. It is sometimes said that the vote taken on that proposition was hastily taken; and that it was a snatch vote. I hope that any hon. Members who echo that statement will examine for a moment the facts as they stand. It is quite true the vote was actually taken two or three hours before it was thought probable at the beginning of the sitting. But it was taken about seven o'clock in a very full House which was well acquainted with the fact that the issue was coming on. The records, of course, show at what hour the vote was taken, and as to the question whether or not the House was a full one, the number who voted was 357. Is not that a reasonably full House? How many Members voted on the proposal that the Bill be read a second time? Remember the Second Reading was challenged by the Opposition; there was a two days' Debate; party Whips were issued on both sides; and in all 363 voted. Can it then be said that the

number who voted on the question of the eligibility of women was an inadequate number? The highest number of Members who voted on the Bill has been 385, or 28 more than on my Amendment, and if those 28 had been added to the minority the other night, the vote would still have been declared in favour of women. In fact neither side was benefited or injured by taking the vote two hours earlier than had been anticipated, and there certainly was nothing of a snatch or chance character about the division. I believe if the judgment of the House could to-day be taken in the same unbiased manner we should have the same result. But unfortunately we shall not be able to put that to the test. The Lords have refused to assent to the proposition we inserted in the Bill, and they have done so by a considerable majority. The decision of the Lords has not unnaturally influenced the Government in relation to the matter, and any division now taken will be taken under entirely different circumstances. I do not wish to underrate the action taken by the House of Lords, and neither do I want to say much about the character of the vote given. I am prepared to deal with it in a spirit of sweet reasonableness. But everyone who has studied the conduct of business in the House of Lords knows that there is a great reserve of voting power which does not usually find any issue in divisions in that House; but now and then, at longish intervals, some question is raised exciting great feeling, and a number of Members come and vote who very rarely take part in their proceedings. Now I cannot say that an expression of opinion so given is entitled at once to absolute deference. Members who come in in that fashion to record their votes—at rare intervals, under impulse, and without listening to or attending very much to the business of the House at ordinary times—cannot complain if the House of Commons is disposed to ask them to reconsider the verdict at which they have arrived. Members of the House of Peers, again, or a large number of them, act under no sense of responsibility as we do here. I ought not to say under no sense of responsibility—for of course they are all public men—but under no such sense of responsibility as Members do here. There is no one to whom they have to give any account; there is no penalty to be enforced, no

disqualification can be brought to bear. And when a large number of them turn up unexpectedly, it may be truly said they have not the same touch of public life, they are not in such keen and active relation to the currents of political thought as Members of this House must be who habitually and daily give up their minds to the study and conduct of political questions. Here, again, it cannot be said that we are acting in an offensive manner to the House of Lords if we ask that House to reconsider, with further knowledge, the question on which they have already pronounced a first opinion. I do not wish to speak disrespectfully of the House of Lords as a whole, or of Members of it in particular, but it may be said of them as of Members of this House, and, as I fully admit of myself, that this is a question which is concerned with a mass of facts, with a large accumulation of phenomena, of circumstances connected with our town life, with which few or none of us are completely acquainted. If this were a question of the eligibility of women to be Poor Law guardians nobody would venture to contest the issue. Their fitness for the functions of Poor Law guardians has been too amply demonstrated to be questioned; yet when it was first proposed to make them so eligible, the very men who now say they would not for a moment remove them from that position were in not a few cases opposed to their admission on those boards. There was difficulty in getting women made eligible for boards of guardians. The invincible logic of facts has proved their ability, their fitness, their worth, and their public service. I believe if anyone will examine the facts of London life they will find in the records of the last four years the same powerful series of arguments in favour of the eligibility of women to be members of vestries and of these municipal corporations. What they have done in the last four years, if fully known, would make many Members who now oppose the eligibility of women to be members of those corporations change their minds, as they have changed their minds in relation to women on boards of guardians. It is difficult for any of us to appreciate adequately the conditions under which many of our fellow-citizens in this mighty London live. How many Members can conceive of the conditions under which families live who inhabit

one room, and one room only, in a tenement house in the East-end? Even in the richest districts there are places where the same conditions prevail—where cleanliness is impossible, where decency and morality are difficult. It was to deal with these facts that women twenty years ago ventured into London life to do the work they now do. Miss Octavia Hill and the band of women who work with her were occupied with life under those conditions before men were concerned with it; and when the Local Government Act of 1894 was passed, there was found already trained a service of women fit to serve in the vestries in fulfilment of the duties they had voluntarily undertaken, and in discharge of functions which the men themselves, if left alone, would have been unable to discharge. It is pathetic to hear, as I have done, men who are concerned with vestries in the south and east of London and in mid-London, say that the work they have to do cannot be done by men. It has been done with the help of women. And now it is proposed, in pure ignorance, to take away from women the opportunity of continuing the work they have done so well and so much to the public advantage. The mere supervision of tenement houses, the treatment of outbreaks of disease, all these things require the use of women. To superintend, supervise, and instruct women officers in the conduct of affairs, women have been necessary on the vestries, and have been found of such assistance that they have been appointed on committee after committee for dealing with matters concerning tenement houses and the treatment of the sick. Suppose an infectious disease breaks out in a house in every room of which there is living a family of moderate size; it is the intervention of women that has enabled parish officers to treat such cases properly, to organise a service to relieve others from infection, and to set up reception houses to which infected persons are taken while the process of disinfection goes on, and whence they can only be taken by persuasion. It is the agency of women who have been acting as part of the parish vestries which has enabled all this to be done. It is said that the work of boards of guardians is important, and that it could not be done without the assistance of women. But sanitation is at least as important as the work of boards of guardians. It is said, with some

force, that sanitation is a matter of prevention, whereas the work of boards of guardians has to do with the cure of the evils which arise from the defects of sanitation. You are going to the origin of things when you deal with these wretched houses of these poor inhabitants. When you try to regulate and civilise them, to raise their standard of existence, you anticipate the conduct of the lives of persons who, if left alone, would in the end fill your workhouses and become the objects of the attention of guardians. It was proposed a year ago that a certain lady who has done good work on a vestry on the south side of London should stand for the board of guardians, but she felt that she could not discharge the duties of both offices. Thereupon a meeting of working men was held, and it was decided that the work of the vestry was more important than that of the guardians, and they could not allow this lady to give up her place on the vestry. Those who confess that women are so important in regard to boards of guardians must see some force in this opinion of the working men themselves as to the desirability of women serving on vestries. The new municipalities will take over the work of the vestries, and all the good work which the women have done will have to be done under the new bodies in some sort of way. It could not have been done in the past but for their co-operation, and if you take away the possibility of women co-operators in the municipalities of the future that work will be done very badly. There will also be some additional functions, such as the housing of the poor. Who have as much knowledge and capacity for dealing with questions arising from the housing of the poor as the women to whom I have referred, who have been engaged in considering this problem in the most practical way for the last four years, who have trained up women specially acquainted with the facts, and specially acquainted with the dangers to be avoided, and specially informed as to the needs to be met and the benefits to be secured? There may also have to be added the question of common lodging houses. Without the assistance of women you really will never be able to regulate common lodging houses as they ought to be regulated. The Secretary for the Colonies, who is a great authority on municipal matters, said on one occasion that municipal action

Mr. Courtney.

goes home to the lives of the masses ; it concerns their health, their comfort, and their recreation. I accept every word of that statement. I go further, and say that the more intimate the action of the municipalities is in relation to domestic life the more important is the co-operation of women in making that action intelligent and effective. We are very often told that this Bill is intended to create interest in municipal life. Here you have a band of women who have exhibited the very interest you desire to excite, and it is actually proposed to turn them off from taking that share of the duties which they have hitherto discharged. You want to elevate the tone of municipal life. Women have done it. They have bettered the manners and improved the tone of and elevated the conduct of those concerned in the work of vestries. You want to sweeten the conduct of affairs. They are the people who have done it and will continue to do it. You want also to have engaged in the conduct of your municipalities persons who are above suspicion of being personally interested. The great defect of vestries in the past has been the intrusion of men who came there to do some little job or to promote some interest of their own. The women who have been engaged on vestries have never been suspected of the least taint of personal interest in their action. The motion I make is simply to keep women in the discharge of the duties they have performed so well for the last five years, and the most powerful argument in its favour is the work which they have done. The facts, if realised, would be all-powerful. I merely ask that this question may be sent to the House of Lords for reconsideration. What reason is there why it should not be submitted once more to their judgment ? If they insist upon their view we could at last only be beaten and acquiesce in their decision. There is no risk to the Bill or the conduct of public business involved in inserting the Amendment which I propose. Surely it might be urged in the House of Lords above all assemblies that they should not take away from any person or persons the privileges and rights which they at present enjoy. I hope the Government will yet allow this matter to be an open question. I will not appeal to the Leader of the House ; I know his heart and brain are with us in this matter ; he strongly supports the proposition which is sub-

mitted, although he may have to urge the propriety of deferring to the House of Lords in the judgment which they have pronounced. But there is no necessity so to defer at this stage. There is no reason why you should not give the Lords an opportunity of reconsidering the vote which they have given, and that is all that I ask may be done. There is no political reason, and certainly no Party reason, why that should not be done. The question is confined simply to whether or not we should allow women to go on filling the posts they have been chosen to fill in the past, and which they have filled with so much acceptance to the inhabitants of this over-crowded metropolis. I trust the House will reaffirm the eligibility of women for this office, and for that purpose I move my Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"To the words inserted by the Lords, at the end, to add the words 'except that of councillor.' "—(Mr. Courtney.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): My right hon. friend, as he was perfectly justified in doing, has made a survey of the whole question with which this House has been more than once interested in connection with the Bill which has recently been dealt with in another place. I do not propose to follow his example, or to discuss the advantages or disadvantages of having women on the new municipalities, or the more general question of the work women are capable of doing on public bodies, with which he has dealt with the earnest conviction which we all know he possesses, and with great fulness and completeness of argument. I will only say that I recognise, and I believe those who do not agree with me on this question also recognise, the value of the work women have done on boards of guardians and other public bodies, and in connection with the life of the poor in our crowded cities, and the amelioration which may be introduced into their lot. It may be possible—though this is not an occasion for contemplating or discussing such a provision—that, even without running counter to the views of that great body of public

opinion which, I think, unfortunately, is intent on resisting the equality of women and men in connection with these municipal bodies—it may be possible to devise, by a general Bill, arrangements by which they may serve on committees specially connected with such interests as my right hon. friend has dealt with. That may meet with the acceptance of Members on both sides of the House, and I only throw it out as a suggestion. Having thrown out that suggestion I pass on to say that I do not propose to discuss with my right hon. friend the best form in which, in his opinion or in the opinion of this House, the Bill might be passed. We have to-day a different task—to consider whether it is in the interests of the Bill which we are desirous of passing through the House that we should enter into a contest with the Upper House on this question. The Government are unanimously of opinion that it is not in the interests of the Bill. My right hon. friend has pointed out that the final Division on the question during the Report stage of the Bill was taken in a House which could not be described as an empty House, and he maintained that it fairly represented the general opinion of the House and the balance of parties in the House on this particular question. I do not know whether my right hon. friend was right or wrong, but, at all events, he will be in agreement with me when I say that the utterances of this House have been, to a certain extent, doubtful and vacillating on this subject, while the utterances of the House of Peers—whatever may be said of them—have been neither doubtful nor vacillating. I cannot believe that any majority which, under any circumstances, could still be obtained in this House in favour of allowing women to have seats on the new municipal bodies, would be sufficient to induce the House of Lords to yield upon a point on which they have expressed so clear and strong a conviction by such an overwhelming majority. Under these circumstances it would be merely provoking a useless contest, possibly endangering the Bill, if we attempted to restore the Bill to the original shape in which it left this House, or adopt the modification my right hon. friend proposes. If the modification were of a character which would conciliate the opposition of the House of Lords something might be said for it. But any one who followed

the course of the Debate in the House of Lords or the trend of opinion there would see that the objection to allowing women to be councillors would not in any sense be mitigated by not allowing them to be aldermen or mayors. That being so, I do not think my right hon. friend has proposed what may be properly called a compromise. I do not think his suggestion, if carried by this House, would lead to an agreement between the two Houses. That being so, in the interests of the measure which I have been responsible for carrying through this House, on the part of the Government I am obliged to say that we propose to resist the Amendment of my right hon. friend.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : This question is one of very great importance, and I trust that it is not going to be divided upon without some further discussion besides that which it has already received. I must say, in the first place, that I cannot agree with the policy pursued by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bodmin, who has proposed the compromise which is embodied in his Amendment, and for this reason—that I do not believe that he will secure one single vote more by this compromise, as compared with a motion to reject the Lords' Amendment in this House. I fancy that he himself will be doubtful as to the wisdom of his policy, after hearing the speech which has come from the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House, and which, I assume, means that the Government Whips are to tell in the Division in support of the Amendment of the House of Lords. The whole course of the discussion of this question in the House of Commons has been one of the most singular which I have ever observed in my own experience. When the question was first submitted to the House, the Government left it an absolutely open question, and the Leader of the House rather indicated that his sympathies went with the eligibility of women sitting upon these bodies, and in the lobby afterwards we had the advantage of the support of the First Lord of the Treasury, of the Chief Secretary for Ireland, and some other Members of the Government. I notice this extraordinary fact—and I think it is right that the public should know it—that while the First Lord of the Treasury declared that this was an open question in which the Government

would take no part, the Government Whips were active in working against the eligibility of women sitting on the new municipalities, just as if it were a Government matter. In all the Divisions there is no doubt that the Government Whips worked against the proposal to allow women to be eligible for these bodies, with the greatest possible activity, and I have no doubt that that had a great effect in influencing the Members who voted. I do not think it is fair play to approach this question in that way, and I think the Government ought to have had the courage to take up the question. Certainly, after having announced through the Leader of the House that this was to be left an open question, I do think that the Government Whips ought not to have operated to influence the result either one way or the other. I listened with great interest and with some sympathy and compassion to the somewhat pathetic speech of my right hon. friend the Member for Bodmin, in which he still clings to the delusion that you can discover in the House of Lords any sympathy with human suffering. He devoted a considerable time to explaining—I suppose for the benefit of the large section of the House of Lords who are listening to this Debate—the enormous benefits which women have brought by their public work on these public bodies to the suffering poor in this great city. If the right hon. Gentleman thought that would recommend his cause to the Members of the House of Lords sitting in another place he is greatly mistaken, for in the Upper House when the ordinary work of the nation is transacted very few members attend. But on certain occasions, as the right hon. Gentleman truly said, they are seen assembling there in great numbers, and their faces are so unfamiliar that the doorkeepers at the House of Lords have often attempted to prevent some of them going in. When it comes to a question of women discharging duties which they are better fitted to discharge than men, then Members of the House of Lords are brought down, who have not sat in that chamber for years, to give a vote, just as they did on another historic occasion, when I saw brought into the House of Lords to vote the lame, and the blind, and even a Member was brought down in a perambulator to give his vote in order that the poor suffering tenants of Ireland might be kept out of their homes. I hope this

lesson will not be lost on the right hon. Gentleman, and that he will be, at last, weaned from the idea that the House of Peers is an essential part of the constitution of this country. But whether essential or not it has always distinguished itself by blocking and obstructing throughout this century every proposal for the benefit of the people, and intended for the relief of human suffering. I desire now to turn to the speech made by the Leader of the House. He is a distinguished advocate of the rights of women, and he goes somewhat further than I have ever gone in that direction; but I would ask his followers and the Members on this side of the House—and there are many men equally opposed to this question on this side of the House—have they fully considered what effect such a speech will have? I must say that I think the action taken by the Leader of the House to-day in the face of the facts is cowardly. I have never voted myself for the Parliamentary suffrage of women, for I have always seen great difficulties in the way, although I have never voted against it. One of the arguments which I have always found the greatest difficulty in getting over is that women have said, and said with great force, "Until we have the suffrage we shall never get fair play or justice in the House of Commons." To-day that argument will have great additional strength, because if ever there was a case in which the women have all the justice on their side in favour of the claim which they are making, that case is the one in which the House of Commons is called upon to judge to-day. If the women of this country possessed votes, would the action of the Leader of the House have been what it is to-day? Does any man suppose that, if we had to consider the votes of the women in our constituencies, the House of Commons would do otherwise than grant this concession and throw out the Amendment of the House of Lords? We know how different the result of the Division would be if women had votes. In view of that fact I say that if you decide to-day to deny to women their right to be elected on these bodies, where they are certainly qualified to sit and to do the business better than men, you are giving an enormous impetus to the cause of the Parliamentary suffrage being extended to women. I hope the women of Great Britain will note the action of the

Government and will scan the Division List very carefully. On what ground are women being excluded? I have listened to all the Debates that have taken place on this question, and I have listened in vain for one single argument except one, to which I will allude in a moment, why we should neglect this claim. We have had ridicule—we are accustomed to that—and we have had sneers at women in the usual style, but no Member has stood up in a serious spirit and has endeavoured to meet the arguments adduced by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bodmin, and to explain on what grounds of public policy they seek to deny to the poor of this city the enormous advantage they now obtain by women serving on these boards. I have only heard one argument—that used by the noble Lord opposite—viz., that women should not be exposed to the rough and tumble and to the unpleasant scenes at contested elections. Certainly in England, though not yet in Ireland, women of both political parties have taken quite as active a part as men in elections. The ladies of the Primrose League and the Women's Liberal Association do not appear to be much afraid of the rough and tumble of elections. In every contested election where a man is sufficiently happy to be the possessor of a wife he always arrives on the scene accompanied by her. Really I cannot see much force in that argument. If there were any force in it—I do not attach any weight to it—we could provide in this Bill machinery which would enable women to avoid the rough and tumble of elections. I object to the proposed compromise now before the House. If women are eligible to be councillors, *a fortiori* they are eligible to be aldermen. If there is any force in the argument that it is not desirable to expose women to the rough and tumble of contested elections, then they ought to be admitted as aldermen to these councils should the councils desire it. I will only say in conclusion, for the benefit of those who oppose this claim because of their prejudice against the claim of women to the Parliamentary franchise, that I do not believe this proposal would advance that claim. On the contrary, I believe, and I sincerely believe, that the cowardly refusal of this House to grant this reasonable request will give a very considerable impetus to the agitation

for conferring the Parliamentary franchise on women.

*MR. FAITHFULL BEGG (Glasgow, St. Rollox): As I propose to vote against my Party on this occasion, I do not wish to give a silent vote. In the previous Debates which have taken place on this question I have followed my right hon. friend the Member for Bodmin, because he was fully authorised to represent the views of those interested in this question. I think, perhaps, at an earlier stage some slight error of judgment was made, in the sense that too much was asked for, and possibly owing to that the present difficulty has arisen. But, however that may be, I cannot agree with those who say that what is now proposed is not essentially in the nature of a compromise. What had been asked was that the functions which women are now discharging should be extended. What is now proposed is that those functions should be in the new bodies exactly as they were in the old bodies, and I have the high authority of Lord Salisbury for stating that to all intents and purposes the new bodies will be the same as the bodies they are superseding. We are face to face with a somewhat difficult situation, but I have no hesitation whatever in taking the course I propose to take, and that is to go into the lobby with my right hon. friend the Member for Bodmin. I do not propose to argue the subject from the point of view of the merit of the services already rendered by women in the government of London. I recognise this as an important Bill which the Government cannot afford to have defeated, but I really do not think there is any risk of defeat if this very reasonable proposal be sent up to the Lords for reconsideration. What have we to contend with? The Lords are essentially accustomed to compromise, they exist practically to compromise, if it is shown to them that this House has made up its mind absolutely on any question. There is great force in the remark of the hon. Member opposite that although ostensibly the Government left Members free to vote in any way they pleased on this question, yet the Government whips did influence Members and to that extent influenced the result. I think, therefore, it is exceedingly unfortunate that we should be asked by the Government to throw up the sponge at

Mr. Dillon.

the present moment. My right hon. friend threw out a suggestion which was referred to in the speech of the Leader of the House. I am not quite sure whether I understood him to suggest that an enabling Bill might be brought in at a later stage to enable women to serve on a species of committee on these new bodies. Are we to understand that such a pledge is to be given ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : No, Sir.

*MR. FAITHFULL BEGG : Then, I do not see anything in the suggestion calculated to let down easily those who feel very strongly on this question. Even if such an enabling Bill were passed, I am not at all sure it would meet the case. It would be saying to the women : "There are certain questions regarding which you may be of use, and on these questions come into council with us, but as regards other questions we will not permit you to interfere. You shall continue to pay rates, but you shall not have any say as to how these rates are spent." We have not, I maintain, been treated in a reasonable way by the Government, in view of the earlier stages of this discussion, and I shall certainly vote with my right hon. friend the Member for Bodmin.

*MR. BIRRELL (Fife, W.) : I confess I see in the somewhat discreditable position in which the House of Commons finds itself at the present moment, in its contest with the other House, the judgment of Heaven upon us for having sent up to that truth-loving assembly a measure so dressed up with tinselled phrases and fraudulent pretences as to induce those innocently-minded persons to believe, notwithstanding the assurances of the Prime Minister to the contrary, that the Bill was really one of first-class importance. I remember—I am sure I am the only person in the House who does remember—that I described this Bill during the discussion in Committee as a Bill to call an old thing by a new name. Nobody took any notice of the observation, which, none the less, or, perhaps, all the more, I treasured near my heart. Judge, therefore, my delight when, happening to cross over to another place, I heard Lord Salisbury, who, after all, is Prime Minister and the head of the Government, and by common consent the ablest and not the

least straightforward Member of it, make the very same observation—of course, in chaster language. I do not know whether I am in order in referring to what the noble Lord said, but I heard the noble Lord distinctly say that the object of this Bill was simply to give vestries new names, and that it added, save in one respect the housing of the poor, nothing to their authority. It has not been alleged for a single moment, even in another place, with the plentiful experience we now have of the mode and manner in which women conduct such public duties as they are allowed to perform, that they have not shown good judgment and great capacity. On school boards, boards of guardians, and wherever they have been permitted to serve they have shown remarkable competency in discharging those duties. I will not enter into any vulgar comparisons with the work discharged by male members of these bodies. We have had large experience all over the country on boards of every kind and description, and we find that wherever women have had an opportunity of exercising public functions they have shown they possess very considerable qualifications for that purpose. It is, therefore, not because women are incapable that the House of Lords proceeded to take the step it has taken. I confess, when we are told that nobody complains of women sitting on boards of guardians, I am ashamed of the chivalry of man. If there is a place where it is hard for an educated and refined and pious woman to sit, it is on a board of guardians, cheek by jowl with greasy publicans and small shopkeepers, smiling uneasily at the clumsy pleasantries of her associates, and very often blushing scarlet at their unseemly jokes. To that martyrdom for the love of God and the service of the poor, you are willing that they should submit themselves. We allow them to sit in unreformed vestries, through scenes when Bloggins the ironmonger pulls the nose of Scroggins the green-grocer. That does not interfere with the purity of their characters ; but the moment you reform these vestries, and make them more popular and more suitable to persons of refinement and education, you select that very moment to turn round on women and say, "You are no longer fit to sit here ; these are not the places for you ; out you go." This is the message the House of Commons sends to the women of England, and I say it is a message of insult. Everybody knows that the reason that

the House of Lords made this Amendment is not that they have in any way a rooted objection, or care a snap of their august fingers whether half a dozen women take their seats fitfully in the dingy chambers where these new sprawling municipalities will hold their meetings. Nobody cares a straw on the subject. We are thinking of this "house beautiful." We are thinking that, some day or other, if women are allowed the opportunity of showing their competence all over the country, on this board and that board, and on these municipal councils—if nothing can be said against the mode in which they have discharged their duties, if they have won admiration and disarmed opposition—then, on some day or another, in far-off summers we shall never see, women may come and say, "We have made out our claim to admission within these portals." That is not the question we are considering now. Nothing that we can do will bind the hands of our posterity. When called to fight that question, they will fight it with their own arguments, without any regard to what we say this afternoon. For my own part, I contemplate that possibility with the equanimity of one who, in the first place, is assured that he will be dead at the time; and, in the second place, remembers how this House has survived every kind of change and every sort of Member. Since this House has existed we have seen prize-fighters, jockeys, bullies, cowards, and drunkards, all taking their seats in it. You may go into the Library and take down the three bloated volumes of "Russell on Crime"; you may search that gloomy catalogue and not find a single crime, however hideous; a single felony, however shameful; a single misdemeanour, however disgusting and discreditable, which has not at one time or another been committed by a Member of this House. Not only have they at divers times committed these offences but they have been found out, and have suffered all the diverse penalties of the law and every period of penal servitude. Notwithstanding all these things, notwithstanding the appearance from time to time of persons of that sort in this House, we still consider ourselves the pride of the country and the envy of surrounding nations. Even were that the question, this House would be found strong enough to survive it. But it is not the question. The question is, whether

women should be deprived of a right which they at present enjoy, whether women, judged by their conduct in the past, have disqualified themselves for discharging the public duties which they have, by common consent, hitherto admirably discharged. Are we to go back on something we have already done? Are we to take away the right which women now enjoy—not because we are frightened at the manner in which they will exercise this particular privilege—if privilege it be—but because of something in the far-off future which we dare not contemplate? I cannot assume that anything we do to-day will interfere or call in question how posterity will vote on this question when it arises. But, if we do not reject the Lords' Amendment, we may accelerate that period that some of us pretend to deplore, because after the Vote which will be taken this afternoon, you will be able to write over the portals of the House of Lords and of the House of Commons, "Here dwell a race of men who are afraid of women."

MR LOUGH (Islington, W.): I cannot hope to compete with the eloquence of the hon. and learned Member who has just sat down, but I would like to make a brief protest against the course which the right hon. the Leader of the House has elected to follow. Not a single reason has been given to us why we should not agree to the Amendment. Within the last fortnight, on two important London questions connected with measures which passed in this House, the Lords have corrected mistakes we made in this House. We owe them a debt of gratitude for that. I think this afternoon we should give them an opportunity of correcting the mistake they have made in regard to this Bill. I only desire to make one point on this subject. If the First Lord of the Treasury will not consent to reconsider this matter, the Government will be guilty of a total breach of faith with the House and with London. The first promise the First Lord made was that there should be no interference with any of the franchises which London enjoyed at present as compared with the provincial municipalities. Now, one of the most valuable franchises we have got is that which gives the right to women to sit on these boards, where they have done most useful work. But it is a franchise of the voters also, because they can select

Mr. Birrell.

women to sit on these boards. In that respect we ought to remember the voters as well as the women. There are duties which women can discharge better than men, and why should the right hon. Gentleman, in the face of his promises, deprive the people of London of the right to return women to look after baths and washhouses and the other women's work which they have done so well in the past ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : The right hon. Gentleman has no right to charge me with breach of faith.

MR. LOUGH : With great respect, I may say I think I have made good my point, but I will not repeat it.

HON. MEMBERS : Withdraw.

MR. LOUGH : I do not feel bound to withdraw, for I think I have made my point fairly. Another promise made by the right hon. Gentleman was that the Government would leave hon. Members on both sides of the House free to vote as they pleased. I do not think he is keeping his promise in that matter. The Government is now interfering, and Gentlemen on the other side of the House will not be able to vote as they think right, because their allegiance to party compels them to vote with the right hon. Gentlemen. The promise was made that we should be left free to vote on this matter, and now we are not to be allowed a free vote. I do not think a single reason has been given why we should not give the Lords an opportunity of reconsidering this matter. It will not endanger the Bill, for there will be other points to be debated and sent up to the Lords for reconsideration. I say that if the Government press on this decision they will court an adverse judgment from the country, and it will soon be given, when, I am sure, the policy pursued by the Government during the last few years will be reversed.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) : I intend to vote not with the Government or the Leader of the House, or against the Leader of the Opposition ; I am just going to vote with the Lords, and therefore I wish to explain my position. This question is not in any sense a Liberal, Democratic, or Conservative question. It is simply a question of sentiment on which gentlemen on this

side may have one view, and gentlemen on the other side may have another view, and some on both sides may take opposite views. Thirty years ago the most ardent democrat in the country did not dream of giving women a vote or a seat in these councils.

*MR. COURTNEY : I did.

MR. LABOUCHERE : The right hon Gentleman says he did thirty years ago. Well, I will say that if any person fifty years ago, or since the commencement of the world, had proposed that women were to be given the same political rights as men he would have been looked upon as a lunatic. Take Tiberius Gracchus, the Roman democrat. What would have been thought of him by his fellow-countrymen if he had proposed that women should sit in the Roman Senate ? We know very well that there have been democrats in this country for many centuries, and you may search the motions made in this House for the last five hundred years in vain till the year 1865 or 1866, when the first motion was made in regard to giving votes to women, and then it was defeated. Let us be fair and honest in this matter of giving votes to women. What I object to is that hon. Gentlemen who think that women ought to have the same political rights as men do not bring in a Bill of their own ; but they lay their eggs—female eggs—in a Bill of other people. This Bill, when it was brought in, had absolutely nothing to do with this question of women ; but up got my right hon. friend the Member for Bodmin, and seized the opportunity to propose a clause that women should be given votes by this Bill. My right hon. friend is a man for whom I have a special admiration, because there is no humbug about my right hon. friend. My right hon. friend is a thoroughly honest man. He does not come down here, as some people do, and say : "Oh, we would not give women the suffrage ; we would give a few, perhaps, the suffrage, but not many ; but we would not allow them to sit in this House." My right hon. friend thoroughly believes that women ought to have in every way the same political rights as men, and he knows perfectly well that he cannot establish that change at one blow ; he will carry the day if by degrees he can sap the fortress in

which men are entrenched. That is why I admire the right hon. Gentleman. But this special proposal is the most absurd of any of the proposals in regard to women that I have yet heard discussed in this House. You do not give married women votes, and yet you absolutely say that you are to allow women to sit on these august municipalities. Surely, that is putting the cart before the horse.

*MR. COURTNEY : They have votes.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Married women ?

*MR. COURTNEY : Yes.

MR. LABOUCHERE : That is the case with regard to married women who have property of their own ; but, as my right hon. friend knows perfectly well, his proposal is to allow women to sit on these municipalities whether they have property or not. Then my right hon. friend understands tactics ; he first proposes to get half his case. He says, "I won't ask the House to disagree with that part of the proposal which forbids women to be aldermen, but let them be only common councillors." Can he adduce one single reason why a woman should be a common councillor and not an alderman ? If my right hon. friend is able to slip in as a common councillor, what will be the effect ? My right hon. friend will come down another time and say, "Is it not monstrous that when you allow women to be councillors, you won't allow them to be aldermen ?" Then we shall make them aldermen. And then, having elected them aldermen, he will say, "It is perfectly preposterous that while women can be aldermen and councillors in London they are not to be aldermen and councillors in municipalities in the country." And then, having again carried his point, my right hon. friend will propose that they should sit in this House.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Bright-side) : Why not ?

MR. LABOUCHERE : My hon. friend says, "Why not ?" My hon. friend is an honest man ; he knows this will be the result. It was on this very ground that I voted against the proposal. A horrible vision appears before me. I seem to see

Mr. Labouchere.

ladies sitting on these benches. I see the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Government, Scotch ladies, very likely. I see that one of the able Whips of the Government has just come in. We know what the duties of Whips are, and as those duties are to get votes the most fascinating ladies will, of course, be selected for these posts ; and what will happen ? I tremble to think. Even your chair, Sir, would not be sacred. It appears to me that the attitude of the Lords is a most becoming one in this matter. It is precisely what I have always wanted the Lords to do. I went into another place when a nobleman was discussing the matter, and what did that nobleman say ? He said he understood that the Division in this House had been a scratch Division, and he went on to say, "We don't want to interfere with the House of Commons, but we want to know what the House of Commons really wishes. If the House of Commons is really in favour of this clause, then we will not stand to our views ; but we really think it right to send back the clause to the House of Commons, and to ask the House of Commons to inform us what their wishes are, which we are ready to accept." ("No.") Yes, and it seems to me to be a very proper attitude on the part of the House of Lords. Well, there was a scratch Division. Even my right hon. friend the Member for Bodmin tried to prove that it was not a scratch Division because it happened at seven o'clock. What did happen on that day ? The Finance Bill had been under discussion. It was not intended to take a Division on the Finance Bill, and a great many Members went home, preferring to read the speeches than to hear them in the House of Commons. For some reason the discussion on the Finance Bill broke down, and the next Bill on the Order Paper went off unexpectedly. Suddenly this Division came on. At the commencement of the evening, when I asked some of my friends who are in favour of everything connected with woman : "Is that woman question coming on ?" they said, I have no doubt quite honestly, "No." Well, I did not care to stop for the Finance Bill, and I was on the point of going home when somebody came on the Terrace and said, "That woman question has come on." I naturally remained to vote against it, but there were a great many hon. Gentlemen on this side of the House, as well as on

the other side, opposed to the proposal who were not there at the time. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury says that he stands entirely to his views, although I do not know how the right hon. Gentleman is going to vote. But we can now vote on this Amendment with a full and perfect knowledge of the question before us.

*MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh): We have been told that this question is not to be decided upon its merits, but is to be decided for us by a more august tribunal. I hope, however, that the question will be decided, not with respect to what has been done elsewhere, but upon the merits of the question. We ought to consider whether in excluding women from these councils we shall be doing a kind or unkind thing to the poor of the country. Shall we be depriving them of assistance they ought to have? I think the arguments of the right hon. Member for Bodmin deserve a little more attention than they have received. The right hon. Gentleman has appealed to hon. Members to consider what is the nature of the work which women are doing on these municipal bodies, and I hope the House will look at the matter in that practical way. I do not think that the poor of the country are so well off that this House should deprive them of the assistance which any human being could give them. Is it pretended or alleged that women have not done admirable work on the vestries? No one can pretend that for a moment; and how, then, can anyone say that there is not similar work for them to do on the new bodies? Women are better able to serve the interests of the poor than anybody else, but because of the exigencies of our Parliamentary system this House is to refuse to allow women to do this work. That is not a position which can be fairly or honestly defended. I wish hon. Members opposite, who, I believe, care as much for the condition of the poor as hon. Members on this side, would take their courage in both hands and decide this question on its merits. This is not a matter which should be treated as one of form simply. We ought to consider what will be the practical result of admitting women to these bodies. If the matter is looked at in that light I do not believe that the House would hesitate for a moment in

asking the Lords to reconsider their judgment. It is a much more important matter than might be supposed from the course of the Debate. The whole tendency of municipal government in this country is to bring that government into closer contact with the life of the poor and to take up one subject after another which goes home to their daily life. It would not be right to reject now the assistance which women have in this respect been able to give hitherto upon the vestries. I think, therefore, that we should do well to give the Lords an opportunity for repentance.

*MR. CHANNING: I had really not intended to speak in this Debate; but I desire to express my surprise that no honourable or right hon. Gentleman from the Front Opposition Bench has got up to defend what I maintain to be a contribution of the Liberal Government to the local government of the country of the greatest importance—I mean the Amendment which was adopted in the Act of 1894 when passing through this House of Commons. In that Bill the right was assured to women to sit upon the vestries of London, and to exercise duties upon the vestries of London which they have shown themselves capable of exercising with efficiency and with benefit to the public. I consider it an honour to the Liberal Ministry which introduced that in an Act of Parliament, and I wish to express my regret that no one on the Front Opposition Bench has got up to defend the rights of women on this question. I myself have sat with women on local bodies, and I know the excellent work they have done. The First Lord of the Treasury is going to sacrifice the opinions which a large majority of the Members of the House have repeatedly expressed to women who were interested in questions in their own constituencies. Members on the Government side of the House and the Opposition side have repeatedly given their pledges to the women that they would defend their rights on this question, and at the present moment the Government are cowardly enough not to face the House of Lords in the matter. I wish to enter an emphatic protest against the contemptible action of the House of Commons on this occasion, and the lack of courage in not standing up for the opinions to which Members of the House had repeatedly

pledged themselves both in the House and in the country. It is absolutely unreasonable to contend that the rights which had been given to women by the Act of 1894 by the deliberate action of the House of Commons are to be recklessly abolished at the dictation of the other House. The result would be, as many hon. Members on the Government side of the House who are now abandoning their pledges will find out, that there are many women who will exercise their electoral power—their moral and social power—to vindicate their rights, and they will act rightly in doing so. This question has come before the House just after there had been perhaps the most distinguished and remarkable gathering of women from every quarter of the world to discuss important questions of social and administrative reforms, and many of those questions which had been entrusted to them on the local bodies. Any man who has followed the discussions in connection with the International Congress of Women will know that the discussions of that Congress had left on the minds of all sensible men a very favourable impression of the capacity of women and their moral right to share in these questions of local government. I wish to enter my most emphatic protest against the conduct of Her Majesty's Government and the refusal of hon. Members to keep their pledges.

*MR. ALBERT SPICER : I do not often intervene in Debate, especially when the House is nearing a Division ; but I cannot help feeling this afternoon that the House is going to weaken the good influence of this London Government Bill by the vote it is going to give against this Amendment; and, as a resident in London practically all my life, I venture to say a word before we come to a Division. There is one aspect of the case which I do not think has received fair attention. If the

Bill is to be a real success, which all of us who reside in London are anxious should be the case, it will be because we shall call forth the best energies of our local life. We hope that those who will seek for seats upon these new municipalities will represent all the different classes in the district. We hope there will be those who represent business houses, and who are principals of houses where they carry on their business apart from their residences. We hope, also, there will be those who represent the business men of the district ; and we hope there will be a good contingent of the working classes. But, having had fifteen years' experience on a suburban local board, I say there is danger that you will only have in the great majority of cases on your municipalities those who are able to attend during evening meetings, and you will have very few who are able to attend committee meetings during the day. If we can have a fair share of women on these municipalities, you would have those who can give you their work during the day, when so many of the male representatives are bound to be in other parts of London—the working men at their work, and business men at their business. You will have, of course, a few men, I take it, of leisure ; but if you deprive the municipalities of being able to choose some of the most capable women in the district, you will not only deprive them of a great source of power for good, but you will deprive the municipalities of the aid of many who can do a great deal of the detail work, and prepare for the general meetings of the municipalities, and you will in this way place your work far more in the hands of the officials than I believe is good for any municipality. For these reasons I trust the House will not resist this Amendment.

The House divided :—Ayes, 177 ; Noes, 246. (Division List No. 223.)

AYES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)	Bethell, Commander	Burt, Thomas
Allen, W. (Newc.-under-Lyme)	Bill, Charles	Buxton, Sydney Charles
Allison, Robert Andrew	Billson, Alfred	Caldwell, James
Ambrose, Robert	Birrell, Augustine	Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Blake, Edward	Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Ashton, Thomas Gair	Bousfield, William Robert	Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Hertl. Hen.	Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson	Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Austin, M.	Bryce, Rt. Hon. James	Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
Bainbridge, Emerson	Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn	Causton, Richard Knight
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)	Burns, John	Cawley, Frederick

Mr. F. A. Channing.

Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
 Crombie, John William
 Curran, Thos. B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Denny, Colonel
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Owen Morgan
 Ellis, John Edward
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
 Galloway, Wm. Johnson
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harwood, George
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
 Hazel, Walter
 Healy, Timothy, M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Hogan, James Francis
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Altrea

Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jones, David B. (Swansea)
 Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hn Sir U
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kemp, George
 Kitson, Sir James
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 Lowles, John
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Killip, James
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Monckton, Edward Philip
 Montagu, Hn. J. S. (Hants)
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George W. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickard, Benjamin

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Roberts, J. H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edm. (Dundee)
 Robeson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Fortharsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Strachey, Edward
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf Uni.)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson, (Leeds, S.)
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John C. (Notts.)
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'sf'd)
 Woods, Samuel
 Young, S. (Cavan, East)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
 Mr. Faithfull Begg and Mr. Monk.

NOES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitz Roy
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch r.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
 Beach, Rt Hn Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.

Beckett, Ernest William
 Bhowmaggree, Sir M. M.
 Biddulph, Michael
 Blakiston-Houston, John
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Bowcaven, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Brown, Alexander H.
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Butcher, John George
 Carew, James Laurence
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)

Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Curzon, Viscount

Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drage, Geoffrey
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert B.
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St Albans)
 Godson, Sir A. Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St Geo's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gunter, Colonel
 Gurdon, Sir William B.
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hill, Sir Edward S. (Bristol)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutton, John (Yorks N.R.)

Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
 Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonerry)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Lorne, Marques of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (Kent)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclare, Sir John William
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Marks, Henry Hananel
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hon. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Milton, Viscount
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper-Shropshire
 Morgan, Hon. Fred. (Monmouths.)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, C. J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Sir J. W. (Durham)
 Pender, Sir James
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Philpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pierpoint, Robert

Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir T. Hartlep'1)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert, (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
 Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Tharrop) Stalybr.
 Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir M. J. M' Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Warner Thos. Courtenay T.
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Lords in | The House divided :—Ayes, 243 ; Noes, the said Amendment." | 174. (Division List No. 224.)

AYES.

Aird, John	Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Allsopp, Hon. George	Banbury, Frederick George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Arnold, Alfred	Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Arrol, Sir William	Bartley, George C. T.

Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bhowmaggree, Sir M. M.
 Biddulph, Michael
 Blakiston-Houston, John
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonson, H. Cosmo Orme
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Brown, Alexander H.
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Butcher, John George
 Carew, James Laurence
 Carlile, William Walton
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cayzer, Sir C. William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord H. (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt Hon J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir Jno. Chas. Ready
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herb Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, Wm. Donaldson
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynier, Sir J. P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drage, Geoffrey
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt Hon Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Ferguson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r)
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 FitzWigram, General S. F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Sir Henry

Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt Hon G. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gunter, Colonel
 Gurdon, Sir William B.
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hill, Sir Edward S. (Bristol)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
 Jackson, Rt. Hn. W. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Knowles, Lees
 Labouchere, Henry
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
 Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
 Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir D. (Swansea)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. (Kent)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Macolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Marks, Henry Hananel
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Milbank, Sir Powlett C. John

Milton, Viscount
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morgan, Hon. F. (Monmouthsh.)
 Mount, William George
 Muncz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. W. (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
 Pender, Sir James
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Philpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rasch, Major F. Carne
 Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. T.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robison, Brooke
 Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
 Russell, Gen. F. S. (Chilten'm)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
 Smith, Abel H. (Christchurch)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir M. J. M' Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. Jno. Lloyd
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)

Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walron and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allison, Robert Andrew
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. Henry
Austin, M.
Bainbridge, Emerson
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Blake, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Brunner, Sir J. Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carville, P. George Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Clough, Walter Owen
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courtney, Rt. Hon. L. H.
Crombie, John William
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davitt, Michael
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Ellis, John Edward
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. M. (Leith)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Galloway, William Johnson
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford

Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Graham, Henry Robert
Gull, Sir Cameron
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Harwood, George
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazell, Walter
Healy, T. M. (N. Louth)
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Hobhouse, Henry
Hogan, James Francis
Holden, Sir Angus
Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sir U
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kemp, George
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Logan, John William
Lough, Thomas
Lowles, John
Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Lyttleton, Hon. Alfred
Macaleese, Daniel
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Ghee, Richard
M'Killop, James
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred
Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Monckton, Edward Philip
Monk, Charles James
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)

O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark
O'Malley, William
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
Palmer, G. Wm. (Reading)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Perks, Robert William
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Stephens, Henry Charles
Strachey, Edward
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf'd Un.)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thornton, Percy M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert (Perth)
Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds S.)
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Willa, Sir William Henry
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudders.)
Woods, Samuel
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yovall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Tennant and Mr. Spicer.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 6, line 25, after 'council' insert :

"3. Every borough council shall from time to time appoint a finance committee for regulating and controlling the finance of the council; and no order for payment of any sum, whether on the account of capital or income, shall be made by

a borough council except in pursuance of a resolution of the council passed on the recommendation of the finance committee; and any costs, debt, or liability exceeding fifty pounds shall not be incurred except upon a resolution of the council passed on an estimate submitted by the finance committee. The notice of the meeting at which any resolution for the pay-

ment of any sum by the borough council (otherwise than for ordinary periodical payments) or any resolution for incurring any costs, debt, or liability exceeding fifty pounds will be proposed, shall state the amount of the said sum, costs, debt, or liability, and the purpose for which they are to be paid or incurred. Provided that the foregoing provisions shall not apply to payments made in pursuance of a precept from another authority."

the next Amendment, read a second time.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) : This is an Amendment of a very stringent character, and so far as municipal corporations are concerned it is an entirely novel provision. The clause enables one of the committees—the statutory finance committee—of the councils practically to have the whole control of the financial operations of the new corporations. I venture to think the provisions of the Bill were quite adequate for the purpose of maintaining the proper management of the finances of the corporations. By Clause 13 an audit is to take place, and if there has been any improper expenditure a surcharge can be made, and the responsibility falls upon the individuals who concurred in making the payments. The Lords by a small majority, and against the Government, carried the addition of this clause, which lessens the comparatively small freedom which is given to these new corporations. The proposal is objectionable from a business point of view, as the delay and inconvenience caused by the provision will be great, and to carry through some proposals may involve very considerable time. I know of no similar provision in the Municipal Corporations Act, which has been generally cited as based upon long experience and as the best mode of indicating how the new councils should conduct their business. In that Act the greatest freedom is given to the corporation to appoint any committees it thinks fit for any purposes which, in the opinion of the council, will be better conducted by means of a committee than by the whole council. That is the business-like way of dealing with the matter, as local views and local circumstances differ. I quite admit that as the councils will be composed of business men they probably will, as the municipal corporations do, appoint a finance committee, but they will do it much better by having regard to their own particular circumstances than] by having a stereotyped statutory

limitation imposed upon them, which they may feel from experience to be inconvenient, but which cannot possibly be avoided without an amending statute. The best way to form these councils is to trust them as business-like bodies to conduct their business in a proper way, and if they find it necessary to have financial control we may depend upon it that that financial control will be found. In my own constituency the greatest difficulty is apprehended from this restrictive system, and the feeling of the vestries is very strongly opposed to the proposal. It may be said that this provision has been made in the case of county councils, but the closer analogy by far is the borough councils of which the new corporation is to form a unit. There is a great distinction between the county councils and the borough councils in this matter. The former have very much larger areas of administration, their proceedings are comparatively slower, and they have time for going through all these formalities and conforming to the provisions of the Act of 1888. But in boroughs generally, and in London especially, these are matters which have to be very frequently conducted with some speed. It is very difficult to get the three members together to sign the cheques ; they may be distributed throughout London during the day. I think, under the circumstances I have set forth, this is not an Amendment which this House ought to sanction, and I hope it will not be agreed to.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I do not know that this Amendment is of very great importance, but on the whole I should advise the House to accept the Amendment of the Lords. It is quite true that these boroughs are intended to follow the general lines of the municipal corporations, and it is also true that in the Municipal Corporation Act there is no statutory obligation to form committees for carrying out the financial operations of the council, but as a matter of fact all those boroughs which have financial matters to deal with do appoint these committees, and in all our recent legislation such committees have been made obligatory. Not merely in the rural county councils, but in the London County Council there must be a separate committee to deal with financial matters, and no inconvenience has been found to follow

such a proceeding. We have therefore to guide us the experience of the twelve years which have elapsed since the establishment of county councils, and that would be enough to show conclusively whether or not there was any practical inconvenience attaching to the scheme which has been thought by Parliament to be advisable as a check upon wasteful expenditure or vast financial undertakings. That being so, I think it would be desirable to accept this Amendment of the Lords. We may do so without having any fear as to the inconvenience to the vestries which it is anticipated will ensue. I took some trouble to inquire upon that point among the local authorities existing in London, and it was only to-day I received one suggestion in the direction indicated by my right hon. friend. All the other vestries were clear that the provision at the worst would be inoperative, while most of them anticipated that some advantage would follow from it.

MR. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I merely wish to corroborate the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that this system has worked exceedingly well on the London County Council. There is no doubt it acts as a salutary check, and the result has been that in all the Debates in this House there has never any fault been found with the finance of the London County Council. It has been of immense advantage to the London County Council to have such a check, and I cannot recall anything but advantage which has resulted to that body from this system.

Lords' Amendment agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 6, after Clause 8, insert Clause A—

'(A.)—(1) All payment to and by the borough council shall be made to and by the borough treasurer, and all payments by the council shall, unless made in pursuance of the specific requirement of an Act of Parliament or of an order of a competent court, be made in pursuance of an order of the council signed by three members of the finance committee present at the meeting of the council, and countersigned by the town clerk, and the same order may include several payments. Moreover, all cheques for payment of moneys issued in pursuance of any such order, shall be countersigned by the town clerk, or by a deputy approved by the council.

'(2) Any such order may be removed into the High Court of Justice by writ of certiorari, and may be wholly or partially disallowed or

confirmed on motion and hearing with or without costs, according to the judgment and discretion of the court,'"

the next Amendment, read a second time.

MR. LOUGH: I am rather inclined to agree with the argument used by the First Lord of the Treasury in regard to the Amendment just decided, but I think in this case the principle is carried a little too far. There are further conditions to the payment of money by these bodies. Some of those provisions are of a very salutary character, but at the end of the clause are these words: "Moreover, all cheques for payment of moneys issued in pursuance of any such order shall be countersigned by the town clerk." The Amendment I move is to leave out the word "counter," and simply say they should be signed by the town clerk. Every necessity of good finance is secured in the early part of the clause, and it is also provided that the town clerk should sign every order. The bank cannot pay these orders unless it has already received instructions signed by three members of the committee, and my suggestion is that it would be sufficient then if the cheque was signed by the town clerk, and not countersigned. Think what will be involved. There are 500 cheques to be signed every fortnight in the Islington Vestry, some for very small amounts. If these four names have to be attached, 2,000 signatures will have to be made, and no good end will be secured, because the bank will have already got a list signed by three members of the committee, and will have no power to pay anything not on that list. The clause, as it stands, will involve a great deal of financial difficulty, red tape, and unnecessary restriction, and therefore I move this Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the Lords Amendment—

"In line 9, to leave out the word 'countersigned,' and insert the word 'signed.'—(Mr. Lough) —instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the word 'countersigned' stand part of the Lords Amendment."

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I hope the House will not accept the proposal to

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

omit the word "counter." Under the Local Government Act all such cheques have to be countersigned by the clerk of the council or his deputy, and I think it is only right that after a cheque has been signed in the usual way it should be further verified by the signature of the town clerk being affixed to it.

MR. LOUGH: In view of that expression of opinion I will withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lords' Amendment agreed to.

Other Lords' Amendments agreed to.

Lords' Amendment—

"In page 10, line 37, to leave out from 'that' to end of the sub-section, and insert :

'(a) If the Commissioners under this Act make a special Report to Parliament that by reason of anything done under any of the adoptive Acts, or for any other exceptional reason, it is impracticable to deal with a detached part of a parish in manner required by the foregoing provisions of this section, those provisions shall not apply; and further provided that :

'(b) The foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply to the hamlet of Knightsbridge,'"

the next Lords' Amendment, read a second time.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.): I do not think it was the intention of the Lords in introducing this Amendment to make any change in sub-Section 2; but as it refers to "the foregoing provisions" that sub-section would be affected. I would suggest that some words should be inserted to make that clear.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: No words are needed at all, as it is only in the case of a parish in London which is wholly detached that the provision is operative. The second sub-section deals with another matter.

Lords' Amendment agreed to.

Subsequent Lords Amendments agreed to, with a consequential Amendment to the Bill.

MILITARY WORKS BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [3rd July], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

***MR. BUCHANAN** (Aberdeenshire, E.): I was speaking the other night when the discussion came to a close of the practice which had grown up and increased so much of late of discharging a large part of the financial liabilities for Army purposes not out of voted money but out of borrowed money. Since the present Government came into office they have spent out of borrowed money, mainly for naval and military purposes, no less than ten and a quarter millions. They have still an unexhausted amount of borrowing power under the Military Works Act to the extent of something like £4,000,000, and now there are the present proposals for £4,000,000 more. Let us look at the history of this Bill. It was promised in the statement of the Secretary of State for War in February last, when it was described as an integral part of the military programme of the year, and we were assured the Bill would be very shortly issued. In March, when the Estimates came before the House, we were again told that the Bill would very shortly be brought forward, and it was stated in general terms what were the purposes for which the money was to be borrowed. It appears to me that as this Barracks Loan Bill was "an integral part" of the military proposals of the year, it ought to have been introduced at the same time as the Military Estimates, so that we might have had the whole military programme of the Government before us. Everyone will acknowledge that when this Bill was introduced the Under Secretary of State for War made what was practically a Military Estimates speech. Such a course is entirely contrary to the constitutional practice of this House. We ought to have one statement of our military expenditure and military necessities for the year, and it should be made at the beginning of the year, so that we should know the whole of our liabilities. Not only is this proposal an integral part of the military programme, but it is, or ought to be, an integral part of the

financial programme of the year, and yet from beginning to end of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget speech this proposal to borrow money was not even mentioned. In the course of the Debate on the Army Estimates the Under Secretary of State for War said he could not give any further particulars as to the purposes for which this money would be required, but that the amount would be more than £5,000,000. How are we to account for that statement when this Bill only asks for power to borrow £4,000,000? We have had two schedules laid in our hands. Schedule B has really nothing directly to do with the works which are to be completed out of the £4,000,000 here asked for, but the total amount in that schedule is £6,900,000. I ventured to say the other night that the Government were endeavouring to commit their successors to the carrying out of a policy which they themselves hesitated to lay in full before this House. The Chancellor of the Exchequer demurred to that statement, but it certainly comes to this, that if their successors do not carry out all the works they will be blamed, but the reply will at once be, "Why did you not ask for the money?" The form of a Bill of this sort is a very important matter. This Bill consists of one single clause, which incorporates two sections of the Military Works Act, 1897. We are told there will be an honourable understanding that a statement of estimated expenditure from year to year should be laid before the House, but why should it not be put in the statute itself, as is done in the Naval Works Act? There is an honourable understanding existing already as regards the Military Works Act, 1897, and although such a statement was promised as long ago as last March we have not yet received it. On the other hand, the statement enjoined by statute under the Naval Works Act was presented and laid on the Table of the House at the time the Naval Estimates were introduced. The most important defect in the form of the Bill is that there is no detailed schedule of the works to be constructed out of this money. We are told that the precedent of the Military Works Bill of 1897 is being followed, and that upon that occasion no complaint was made of the absence of detailed schedules. But the hon. Member's memory must have failed him, because an Amendment was moved on the Second Reading,

and largely supported, demurring to voting the money until we had fuller details as to the works upon which the money was to be expended. It is not merely a matter of form, but there are practical inconveniences caused by the absence of detailed schedules. For instance, when the noble Lord the Member for York stated he intended to bring up the specific subject of the money spent on Wei-hai-wei, it was pointed out that owing to the absence of a detailed schedule attached to the Bill, the point could only be raised on an Amendment directed against the total sum of £4,000,000. That is a very awkward method of raising such an important question of public and military policy as the occupation of Wei-hai-wei. But there are other objections. The House will notice the very general and ambiguous terms in which the official schedule to the Bill is couched. It is copied from the schedule to the Military Works Act, 1897. In that schedule one head is "Ranges, including accommodation for manœuvring and mobilisation." I do not think anyone will imagine that under that general head could have been included the purchase of all those properties at Salisbury Plain, amounting to a sum of £350,000. The possibility of the Government being able to hide from the sight of the House a purchase of such magnitude under such a term as "Ranges, &c.," is really an abuse of the forms of the House, and deprives the House of Commons of a legitimate opportunity of criticising large and questionable expenditure of money. Upon the question of ambiguity, let us see the effect of such general terms upon the financial control of the House over the expenditure of public money. One of the sub-sections of the Act of 1897, which is included in this Bill, is that by which any diversion of money from one head of the schedule to another can only be carried out with the consent of the Treasury. As the Bill is drawn, that power on the part of the Treasury will only apply to the schedule attached to the Bill, comprising the four large heads, so that it will be possible for the War Office, under the item, say, of £2,750,000 for barracks, to divert money, without the consent of the Treasury, from expenditure at Aldershot to Gibraltar, or from Malta to the Curragh, or from a large work to a small work, or from any one work to another. That is a power which

ought not to be entrusted to any public Department, and the Bill, if for no other reason than that, ought to be furnished with a complete detailed schedule. I cannot see what fair and legitimate argument can be brought forward in support of presenting a Bill of this character without such a schedule. It is given every year with the Naval Works Act, and we hear no complaints as to the Admiralty being hampered in the expenditure of the money. It is a legitimate and necessary control which this House and the country ought to exercise over large spending Departments like the Admiralty and the War Office, that they should not be able to divert expenditure for a specified purpose to one which was not contemplated or sanctioned. I hope still that the Government may see their way in Committee to insert in the Bill the substance of this White Paper with the details of the expenditure.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): My hon. friend has called attention to the financial character of this Bill. I think everybody who has looked into the matter will admit that there is something extremely formidable in the rapid growth of the public expenditure of this country. Year after year large sums have been added to the annual expenditure of the country, until it has reached the enormous figure at which it now stands. But there is something even more formidable than the increase in the expenditure, and that is the laxity of the practice of the Administration as regards the financial measures which have brought about this expenditure. There was nothing more valuable to the country than the careful watch which what I may call our fathers bestowed upon public expenditure. If expenditure were really needed, the House of Commons was always ready to vote it; but ever since the days of Mr. Hume there have been fixed Parliamentary rules for the control of public expenditure, which have been of inestimable value to the finances of this country. Now, these rules controlling public expenditure are broken every day, and I regard that laxity of control as one of the greatest financial dangers that can befall the country. I protested most strongly against the system introduced by the Naval Defence Act of the penultimate Administration. I had knowledge and experience of the mischief

it produced on the public accounts. Therefore, when the last Liberal Government were in office, and when we introduced a Naval Works Bill, the first thing we laid down was that the work to be done should be specified, and what is more important still, that it should be annually brought before Parliament, so that Parliament should have control over those works and be able to call the spending departments to account. We established in that way the financial principles of the country. I think our action was not disadvantageous to the Navy, because we had most useful Debates in this House. But what do we see now? The Government takes hold of four, five, or ten millions, and scatters them about utterly regardless of the old checks on public expenditure which formerly existed. That, I say, is an extremely dangerous and mischievous course of procedure. My hon. friend who spoke last has pointed out that it has always been the rule in this House that in the early part of the year, before the introduction of the Budget, the House should be placed in possession of the intentions of the Government with regard to the finances of the country. But instead of that, the Estimates introduced before the end of the financial year bear no relation whatever to the expenditure of the Government, or even to the intentions of the Government. We see year after year Supplementary Estimates of a magnitude that were never known before—not generally arising out of unforeseen incidents, but part of the financial schemes of the Government, which they had in view, or ought to have had in view, before the finance of the year was settled. But the greatest outrage against our system of financial checks is committed by this very Bill. In the Budget we had a scheme for diminishing by two millions the annual provision for the reduction of the Debt; and that was laid before us without our having the means of knowing that this Bill was to be introduced for increasing our indebtedness by four millions. Was there ever such an example of burning the candle at both ends? I say that when the proposal to diminish the annual provision for the reduction of the Debt was laid before the House we ought to have been told of the present proposal to increase the Debt. This is most lax and dangerous finance. The House of Commons ought to have been in a position to discuss on the pro-

posal to diminish the provision for the Debt by two millions the figures and objects of the measure now before us. Apart from the merits of the proposal before us I venture to add my protest to that of my hon. friend against this most dangerous laxity in the financial policy of the Government, a laxity which is increasing year by year. I cannot understand why in the Military Works Bill we cannot follow the principle which I thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer approved of with regard to the Naval Works Bill. There is not to be an annual Bill because the Government are not spending the money in one year. You are following in that respect the Government of Lord Palmerston with reference to fortifications thirty or forty years ago. I think it is a sound rule that the House of Commons should be able to examine and criticise the proposals in this Bill. I say that this Bill has not been placed before the House of Commons in the shape and in the manner and with the securities which the House has always demanded in the case of financial proposals, and which are absolutely necessary in order that the House may exercise control over the expenditure of the country.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): Unfortunately I was not in my place when the right hon. Gentleman rose, as I had no idea that this question, affecting such large matters, would be raised. But I gather that the complaint of the right hon. Gentleman is this—that at the time I introduced the Budget, which contained a provision for diminishing the amount annually applied to the reduction of the permanent Debt of the country, the House was not in possession of the other proposals which Her Majesty's Government intended to make this year by which the temporary Debt would be increased. But a circumstance occurred long before the date of the Budget which, I consider, exonerates the Government from any blame whatever in this matter. That was the circulation of the Memorandum of the Secretary for War upon the Army Estimates, before the introduction of these Estimates, in which it was stated that a scheme was being prepared for the provision of new barracks for the additional troops about to be raised, for the improvement of the existing barrack accommodation, and for other military works, and that the money

for the purpose would be obtained by loan repayable by terminable annuities rather than by estimate.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT : There was no statement of amount.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : Yes. When introducing the Army Estimates my hon. friend the Under Secretary for War, answering a question interjected in the course of his speech, stated that the sum for the works would probably amount to five millions. I think, therefore, that the complaint of the right hon. Gentleman that the House had no information about this Bill until after the introduction of the Budget is a little absurd.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT : It is not a question of information ; it is a question of control.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : What the right hon. Gentleman complained of was the absence of information. If he had noticed the note in the Memorandum he might have taken advantage of it to call attention to the point which he has now formulated—namely, that while we are reducing the sum to pay off the permanent Debt we are adding to the temporary Debt, raised by terminable annuities, by the amount required for the purposes of this Bill. I understand that is the complaint, and I venture to maintain that so far as possible without the actual introduction of the Bill the House of Commons and the country were informed in detail long before the introduction of the Budget what was to be done. Further complaint is made that the Bill is not in accordance with the Naval Works Act, and no doubt that is true ; but it is also true that in 1897, when the last Military Works Act was introduced, we adopted a different form for the very good reason that we were dealing with matters the cost and progress of which is much more easily anticipated than that of many of the works included in the Naval Works Act ; you are much more confident of the extent of work and the amount required for construction of buildings of this kind than if you are dealing with docks or works under water. But that was not all. The Naval Works Act of 1895, which, if I remember rightly, was introduced by the late Government and not

Sir William Harcourt.

passed until long after the Budget, was framed in a manner which may have been simple enough at the time, but which, I am afraid, in later Bills of the same sort has become extremely complicated by the number of accounts and columns showing amounts and totals of estimated expenditure on various works and of actual expenditure in each year, and in former years. Such a formidable array of figures is presented as makes it extremely difficult for anyone not acquainted with the minutiae of the system to ascertain what it all means. This, at all events, is a simple, intelligible form. So many millions are to be expended, and it is stated in the schedule laid on the table of the House, and by which the Government are as much bound as if it were in the Bill, what works will be undertaken. I can assure the House that the schedule in 1897 was found in practice quite as binding upon the Government as if it had been in the Act. We examined matters before introducing this Bill. We found we had ample means authorised by the Act of 1897, not only for continuing the works already sanctioned by Parliament, but also for initiating works proposed in the Bill now before the House; but when we came to consider the matter we felt it would not be right to divert any of the money Parliament had voted on the strength of the schedule we had laid on the Table, specifying certain works, to new works altogether. Therefore I think the House will see that the form of the Bill binds the Government in the matter of expenditure quite as much as if the schedule were in the Bill, as in the Naval Works Acts. I was not aware the right hon. Gentleman was going to raise these questions, but I think I have answered his principal points.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): My right hon. friend the Member for West Monmouth has reiterated a complaint as to the omission of the schedule from this Bill. The defence of the Government, as stated by the Under Secretary for War, appears to be that in practice the House has as much information and control under the system they propose as under the system of the Naval Works Act. So far as information is concerned, we have only to compare the printed paper circulated by the Government with the Bill and the schedule to the Naval Works Act of 1897. There is

the greatest possible difference between the two. This schedule gives no information at all as to defences, but the Bill simply takes power to spend a million on defensive works. As to barracks, certain details are specified, but nothing like the amount of information is given with reference to past expenditure, the total estimated expenditure, the estimated expenditure for next year, and other particulars which were given in the Naval Works Act Schedule, and which enabled the House to follow the proceedings of the Government from year to year in the carrying out of great works. It seemed to me most valuable that we had this schedule in the Naval Works Act, because it enabled us and the Auditor-General to test the progress of the Government with regard to works which they were authorised and directed to carry out. Part of the defence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was that it contained too much information.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I did not say it contained too much information, but I did say that the number of columns complicated the matter so much that it was almost unintelligible.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: It could not be unintelligible if you had in the Bill of 1897 the same arrangement as was in the Act of 1895. The Chancellor of the Exchequer may call it complication to give detailed information year after year, but I call it enlightenment.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): As these are all new services we have no information with regard to last year, but next year I hope to give the kind of information to which the hon. Member refers.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Will the hon. Gentleman do what was done in the Naval Works Act of 1895? If he does, then the criticism of my right hon. friend on that point will be met. Now I come to the question of control. I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman is aware of what was said on the question of Parliamentary control by the Under Secretary for War. The Under Secretary startled me by the boldness of his assertion as to the amount of Parliamentary control given under this scheme.

He said we could have as much control under the schedule as if it were part of the Act. Just consider the position. Here is a Bill and here is a schedule, and our demand is that the schedule should be made part of the Bill, and we make that demand on the specific ground that it will enable the House in Committee to have control over every item of the proposed expenditure, and that we may be in a position to reject one item, to reduce another, or to add an item not originally proposed by the Government. All that we could do if the schedule were part of the Bill. Can we do it as the Bill stands? I understood the Under Secretary to state that any hon. Gentleman could move to strike out the item for Wei-hai-wei altogether by moving a reduction of the total sum by the amount put down for it. Suppose I do that. The question on which I am beaten is that £4,000,000 stand part of the clause. Someone else comes along who has no objection to Wei-hai-wei, but wants to raise another question. Suppose, for instance, the hon. Member for King's Lynn wants to raise a question about Halifax. Can he raise it? The £4,000,000 stands part of the Bill, and how is a reduction with regard to Halifax to be moved? That shows that under this Bill we have not the same control as we had in the Naval Works Bill. It is the same with the schedule. I can only move the reduction of the items mentioned in it. I move to reduce the Barracks Vote by a certain sum and I am beaten, and the original sum stands, and accordingly every Member of the House is precluded from discussing any other item, because I have been beaten. Is it not absurd to say, therefore, that the House has the same control over the details of this proposed expenditure as it would have if this schedule were part of the Bill? The House would then have complete control over each particular item. I welcome the expectation held out by the hon. Gentleman as to the change in the form of the schedule in future years. I would press him to go a little further, and to accede to the motion that will be made to put the schedule in the Bill, so that the House will have complete control over every item of expenditure.

*COL. BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince): I am glad the Leader of the Opposition has spoken in favour of permanent works at

Mr. Edmund Robertson.

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tain number of points as to which the hon. Gentleman will, perhaps, furnish us with some information. In the first place, a proposition has been made both outside and inside the House for the provision of cubicles in the soldiers' sleeping rooms in the barracks. As far as I have been able to gauge the situation, I take it that the provision of a sufficient number of recruits of a better class is a matter that is engaging the attention of thinking people. It is pretty manifest that we want to lose no chance of tapping any source of supply of recruits, when rival countries are spreading their nets as wide as they can in order to get as many recruits as they possibly can for the service. It seems to me that there is one source of supply which has been somewhat lost sight of, and which it would be worth the while of the authorities to devote particular attention to. I refer to the better educated and more refined class of men who hitherto have not, in a very large degree, entered the ranks in this country. Nothing would be a greater inducement for this class to join the Army than the knowledge that they would have, in their own personal life, as much privacy and decency and similarity to civil life as can possibly be allowed. If this application were to be made for the Army alone, I should, of course, be exposed to the charge of seeking to provide a luxury. But what do I see? I see that in all other walks of life this very provision is being made. In the police barracks there are now in some cases private cubicles, and in the great lodging houses which are now being erected in London, the experiment of introducing the cubicle is being largely tried, and I believe, as far as experience can speak, it has been found to be very largely successful. I want, therefore, to suggest to the hon. Gentleman and his colleagues that it would be a pity to put on one side this idea because certain soldiers do not think the cubicle is necessary. I cannot foresee anything that would be of greater advantage to the Army than to attract into its ranks that large floating population of good fighting material who are not absolutely driven into the Army by sheer necessity, but would be attracted to it by ambition and a real desire to see a little fighting in foreign service. These are the men to whom I think this arrangement would be a considerable advantage. They are men accustomed to a certain amount

of decency and privacy, and they would set a certain value upon this provision which cannot possibly be found when the beds are arranged in one large room. Might it not be possible to take some tentative steps in this direction, and to equip some portion of the new barracks which are to be built, or some portion of the old barracks which are to be repaired, with some arrangement for cubicles? Might it not also be possible to arrange that the possession of these cubicles should be a certain reward for good behaviour in the barrack room? I do not myself attach much value to the arguments urged against it. I have been told that it would be less possible to maintain order and discipline in the barrack room if there were cubicles than if there were not. To that argument I attach no value whatever. I believe order and discipline would be just as well maintained in the barrack room under the system of cubicles as under the open system now in vogue. I have been told that the sanitary arrangements, ventilation, etc., would suffer from the cubicle system. I do not think that that objection could hold water if the matter were thoroughly investigated. Stress has been laid upon these points by many who have more authority to speak on this subject than I have, and articles have been written and evidence of all sorts produced. For instance, I notice, in a valuable article recently in the *Nineteenth Century*, a writer of great authority says that the great want of the private soldier is some privacy, however restricted that may be. We cannot afford in these days to treat our soldiers as if they were different from their brothers outside the ranks. If there is the longing for a little privacy in other walks of life, the same holds good in the army as well. I should be the last person to advocate the introduction of cubicles if it could be shown that it was likely to break down discipline in any degree, or to interfere with the authority of the non-commissioned officers. I am inclined to think, however, that there would be no infringement of authority, and that there would be no other result than the provision of an increased attraction to a better class of men to join the Army. I would therefore urge upon my hon. friend and those who are associated with him to give this matter his serious and, if possible, favourable consideration. Another point that I desire to draw attention to is the provision

of rooms for the special use of the members of the Army Temperance Association. Facts and figures in relation to this matter are very significant. In India, where our Army may, perhaps, be said to exist under circumstances in which its health and condition and discipline are even more vitally important than at home, out of 78,000 men, 24,000, or about a third of the Indian Army, are members of the Army Temperance Association. We are therefore obliged to be practical in dealing with this question. We cannot afford to be run away with by sentiment, however attractive that sentiment may be. But what seem to be the hard facts in connection with the work of this Association? You may judge it, if you like, by courts martial.—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I do not see the connection between the Army Works Bill and the temperance question.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY: The Military Works Bill has to do with the provision of barracks, and my point leads me to the provision of Army temperance rooms as part of the new barracks proposed by the Bill. This temperance association depends for its vitality and usefulness on the provision of these rooms, and if it cannot have these rooms the association will languish and decay. If, on the other hand, we have these rooms, the association will flourish and be full of vigour. It is an advantage to the Army that this temperance association should exist, and if that is the case, is it not worth the while of the hon. Gentleman in charge of this Bill to consider the advisability of attaching these rooms to the new barracks which, under this Bill, he proposes to erect? If these rooms produce the result which the figures seem to show, I think it is obvious that the moment the money is to be spent on the creation of the new barracks is the time that that provision should be taken into consideration. I hope, also, if the hon. Gentleman takes the same view as others do of the great advantages resulting from the Army Temperance Association, he will possibly see his way to deal with it more generously in the form of finance than it has been dealt with hitherto. The only other point to which I wish to draw attention is the need of proper hospital accommodation for the garrison in London. I think it

has been brought within the personal knowledge of my hon. friend—at all events it was within his power to acquire the information very easily—that the military hospital in London is hardly sufficient for the needs of the London garrison, and it too often happens that cases have to be hurried away before they are really in a proper condition to leave the hospital. Those are the three points I wish to emphasise, and I hope in due time the hon. Gentleman will give them his consideration.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): It is from no want of sympathy that I disagree with the remarks of the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down; but I rise for the specific purpose of moving an Amendment. I move it, not out of any hostility to all the Expenditure Bill, but because I believe there is a serious danger of reaction against wise, deliberate and judicious expenditure of public money unless there is that consideration given to these matters which they undoubtedly deserve. I do not believe that there can be that control over these matters which there should be unless this House insists upon full details being laid before it. The Amendment which I propose to move would have the effect of incorporating in the Bill the full details which are given in the Schedule which has been made out since the Bill was introduced, and therefore giving to the Schedule the effect of a legal enactment. The rule adopted of raising this money by a loan is a considerable improvement upon the old procedure of Votes of Credit under which large sums were received and expended without proper control being exercised. It has always been considered, since the system of loans was adopted, that for permanent works it is the legitimate method of raising money, but hitherto there have been two characteristics of this system. No one can deny but what there has been considerable extravagance, and that unnecessary outlays have been the result of this system of loans; and no one can doubt but what these things have been carefully limited for some time by the schedules attached to the Bills. In 1886-7 or 1887-8 the preparedness of the country according to the standard then held was so efficient that the then First Lord of the Admiralty, now the Secretary of State for India, was able to come to

Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.

the House with a reduced expenditure. We are now enjoying a period of unexampled prosperity, and there is no doubt the naval and military expenditure will not be much felt; but in the lean years which must follow these fat years we shall see that a large expenditure has been incurred, which we shall then have to pay, and there will be a violent reaction, which was the chief evil at the time that this expenditure was provided for by Votes of Credit. Everyone knows, who is conversant with naval and military expenditure, that in no branch has there been more useless expenditure than the outlay on buildings and barracks. It must be remembered that we are at present in an uncertain position. The paper addition of men to the Army is 25,000, the real addition has not been one-fourth of that number, and without some radical change in the system of recruiting, it is doubtful whether we shall be able to complete the establishment at the number at which the Government has fixed it. Every effort has been made by the recruiting authorities to meet the excessive call that has been made upon it to raise troops, and the efforts have not been successful, and when you are in a difficulty of that kind, and are not sure of your ground, it is unwise to erect these great buildings and large camps all over the country. Then look abroad. The colonies, like ourselves, are realising their responsibility for their own defence, and we shall have a greater claim to call upon them to take their share in Imperial defence as time goes on; and that being so, why should we embark in this expenditure? We look forward to the time when the garrisons of South Africa will be much smaller than they are at present. At the present time in that country we have an abnormal number of troops. Can there be anything more calculated to check and repress the feeling of responsibility on the part of the colonies than to make useless provision for large permanent garrisons in such a country? My objections to the Bill are that in the first place it does too much, because if the second part of the schedule does anything, it lays the responsibility upon the Government whether they like it or not. It has been laid down over and over again that any money proposals which the Government bring forward should be complete in every detail, and that principle has been directly

infringed in the present Bill. A complete scheme is not dealt with by the Bill, and it puts upon the Government a responsibility which they have not been able to consider. Therefore the Bill does too much in one direction, and it does too little in another, and that is shown when you compare this schedule with the Act of 1862, the Fortifications Act as it was called. In that case the Bill would have been lost if the schedule had not been included, and if that schedule is looked at it will be found to be complete in every detail and that it is actually attached to the Bill, so that it has the force of an enactment. It gives details which the Government is not willing to give us. The Under Secretary divided the expenditure into two parts, home expenditure—

*MR. WYNDHAM: The distinction we have drawn is that we give details as to barracks, but not as to defence.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: Let us take home defence first. Home defence is not less important than the defence of our colonies, and I think the Government are drawing an unjustifiable distinction between the two. Take Wei-hai-wei in the Army Estimates. Every man is provided for: the surveyors, the dredgers, and the Chinese soldiers of the Queen are given in the Estimates in a most minute form, and such information is now withheld. Such a procedure will have the inevitable drawback of the loss of control over these advances. I notice in Schedule A of this Bill £55,000 for barracks at Colchester, and in the Estimates another item of £165,000 for the same purpose. Upon what principle is the Government acting? It cannot but be productive of evil. Ministers on the Treasury Bench apparently wish to exert full control and to prevent expenditure rightly put into the Estimates being transferred to loans. But the only means by which these things can be effectively controlled is by this House, and there will be a serious loss of control if the practice I suggest is not followed. I urge the Government to be a little more frank to the House. There is another consideration. There are large sums to be expended by the Government under former loans. There is £155,000 under the barracks loan after allowing for the expenditure of this year, and I question whether the Government will be able to

expend that sum in the time. I think the House will agree that the information as to this expenditure ought to be embodied in the Bill itself, and that being so I beg to be allowed to move: "That this House declines to allow this Vote, unless full details are given as to the expenditure."

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I rise to second the Amendment moved by the hon. Gentleman the Member for Forfar. I really think the Under Secretary should be prepared to furnish this information. We are told that the amounts expended will be in the Votes next year, but we want to consider the proposed expenditure before the money is spent and not after it has disappeared. I have not had an opportunity of going over the barracks in England to ascertain whether the same practice prevails as at Fort George, but I sincerely hope that the right hon. Gentleman will give his serious attention to the state of the barracks to which I have alluded. It is very remarkable that hon. Members have to go through such a large number of documents and accounts in order to see how much money is to be spent upon any one particular barrack. The system in regard to Scotland is very bad indeed in this respect. In England we have £4,250,000 expended on barracks and other works; in Ireland the total is £750,000, but in Scotland it is only £65,000. Now I do not think that this is quite fair to Scotland, for we have to find our quota of soldiers and sailors, and we possess the finest Naval Reserve station in the kingdom. Yet we cannot get from the War Office a sufficient sum of money to provide decent accommodation at Dingwall for the staff of one of our finest Highland regiments.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must confine his remarks to the question under consideration.

MR. WEIR: I hope the hon. Member will go to a division against this system of conducting business at the War Office, which is not upon a sound principle. If he does I for one will go into the Lobby with him. We shall be beaten by the battalions behind the hon. Member opposite, but we shall at least have the satisfaction of recording our protest against this secret system of conducting business at the War Office.

Captain Sinclair.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'this House declines to proceed further with a Bill authorising the expenditure of public money upon military works unless full details of the purposes for which this outlay is to be made are contained therein.'"—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I think when it is remembered that this is the last Bill of a whole series for military loans it is somewhat surprising that there does not appear to be any very great attention being given to the matter by the majority of the Members of this House. Looking at the improved condition of the working classes, and looking to all the circumstances of the time, if you are going to keep an efficient army at all I think you will have to pay a much higher rate to your soldiers than you are paying now. Therefore, you must of necessity face the certainty of a very large increase of the soldiers' pay, and that means a large increase in the annual Estimates. It is, therefore, more than ever necessary to consider this question seriously, and we are bound to examine and carefully scrutinise any proposals connected with military expenditure. Now, this Bill is for £4,000,000, and £3,000,000 of that total will go for barracks, and £1,000,000 for what is called defence works. As the latter question involves so many considerations I do not wish to say much about barracks, but I do feel that, in view of what has been said about the expenditure of public money and the extra cost we shall have to bear for extra pay for soldiers, it is my duty to call attention to the barrack policy as a whole. We all agree that it is necessary to do everything that is reasonable and possible for the comfort and convenience of soldiers living in barracks both at home and abroad. The proposal in this Bill is only another step in the barrack policy which was commenced in 1872, for in that year there was a loan of £3,500,000 for the construction of barracks, and it took over twenty-four years to carry that policy out, for the Auditor-General in 1896 reported that the work was not completed. In 1888 the House, through a Parliamentary

Committee upstairs, called the Randolph Churchill Committee, had practical evidence from the Inspector-General of Fortifications as to barracks. On the 8th of June, 1888, this is what he said :

" I should like the House of Commons to know that the probability is that to place the whole of the barrack establishments throughout the Empire upon a proper footing, and to make everything thoroughly efficient, would cost between £4,000,000 and £5,000,000. That is my opinion."

That was in 1888, and there you have a specific statement from the Inspector-General of Fortifications. Since then we have spent £10,439,000 on barracks, or more than double the amount which the Royal Engineer, who in this matter was the spokesman of the War Office, said in 1888 we should have to incur. Now the Bill tells us that £3,000,000 is wanted immediately, and the schedule of the resolution tells us that £2,594,000 must follow at once. If we leave out the £1,600,000 which is to be expended for Salisbury Plain, and is, therefore, a new item, which it is not fair to bring into this calculation, we find that £11,384,000 is the amount required to do what the Royal Engineers told us eleven years ago would probably cost between £4,000,000 and £5,000,000. Therefore, when the scheme contemplated by the schedule of this Bill is complete, you will have spent on barracks, between 1872 and the completion of the scheme, £16,533,000. What does that mean? You may take the equivalent of barrack expenditure at £100 per man, and that means that between 1872 and the completion of this scheme you will have built barracks representing accommodation for 165,330 men. Hon. Members know that we have not done this. Looking at this barrack policy in connection with what I have said, I think that anybody who studies the subject must be convinced of two things—that the War Office has had no continuous policy as to the distribution of troops, and by constantly changing its policy it has created the necessity for erecting barracks on different sites; and the other thing is that this proves clearly the false system of the War Office in putting into the hands of the Royal Engineers these gigantic building works, because the Royal Engineers are for sapping and mining, going up in balloons, laying telegraphs on land, and putting explosives under water; therefore I

am not surprised that you have this enormous bill and so very little to show for it. Passing from this point the real novelty exhibited by the schedule is not the expenditure for Salisbury Plain, which I think everyone will approve of, but the expenditure of £130,000 for permanent barracks at Wei-hai-wei. As far as this Bill is concerned this is all we know of the amount of money going to be spent at Wei-hai-wei. I should like to know, however, how much of the blank cheque of £1,000,000 for defence works is going to be spent at Wei-hai-wei, for we have no information on this point, which I think is one deserving attention. As a loyal supporter of the Government I regard the withholding of information, which has always been given, as to the general purposes to which this money is to be applied, as a very great mistake. Nobody asks for detailed information. The Act of 1860 gave full information; the next step which extended the principle was that taken in 1884, when papers were circulated by the Treasury under the head of "Garrisons and Coaling Stations Abroad," which proposed a large expenditure on ports abroad, and in which was set forth the details, not only of the amount of money to be spent at each place for defence works, but also of the amount to be spent on armaments and the nature of those armaments. In 1888 the precedent of 1860 and 1884 was followed. There you had the schedule and the statement, and you had it also put explicitly in the memorandum of the War Minister, that so much was for each place and so much was for armaments. Now the Government withhold from us any information at all.

*MR. WYNDHAM: But there are no armaments on this Vote.

*SIR J. COLOMB: May I ask my hon. friend if I am to understand that the whole of this £1,000,000 is for defence works without any guns at all?

*MR. WYNDHAM: Yes.

*SIR J. COLOMB: Then this £1,000,000 is to provide for works without any guns at all. That statement, I am afraid, will compel me to vote for the Amendment unless a much more explicit declaration, as to where the works are to be, is

forthcoming. No reason has been given for silence as to the application of this loan. Only an excuse has been given, and my hon. friend says:—

"There is a great deal of value to be gained by leaving the exact location of defence shrouded in a little mystery."

I am bound to say that we are not asking for mysterious details, but I do claim to know where the money is to be spent, and how much of it is for works and how much for armaments. We know now that £1,000,000 is to be spent on works without any guns, and if I misunderstood my hon. friend it is not my fault, but the fault of the War Office in departing from all precedents in this matter. The next point is, what have we got to shroud in mystery? With our system of "open doors" and open ports how are you going to conceal how and where the money has been spent? Every foreign officer will see it with his own eyes, and he will report to his own Government, and the Foreign Governments all over the world will know it. The only people you are shrouding in mystery are the supporters of the Government: how are they to defend a policy which you will not explain? I think more evil will come at home from shrouding public expenditure in mystery than anything you are likely to gain abroad by the delusion that you can conceal what you are doing from foreign Governments. If you are going to spend £1,000,000 in China why not say so? The people of this country will give you their confidence if you give them yours; but if you are only going on the lines of 1860, 1884 and 1888, why are you departing from the precedents of those Bills? Is it a fact that most of this £1,000,000 is going to Wei-hai-wei?

*MR. WYNDHAM: In two different speeches I have mentioned five different classes of expenditure under this Bill in the order of their importance, and the hon. Member knows perfectly well that Wei-hai-wei is only intended as a secondary naval base.

*SIR J. COLOMB: Then, all I have to say is that there is no such term as "secondary naval base" in the Estimates, or anywhere else that I know of, which determines expenditure. When you

Sir J. Colomb.

talk about a secondary naval base what do you mean? Is it to be a naval base to Hong Kong, or to ports in the United Kingdom? I am compelled, in view of this mystery as to where this money is going, to deal more fully with this question, and I will, as briefly as I possibly can, look at this subject from the general aspect of the defence of the Empire. We won our empire not by sitting down and waiting for attack, but because we possessed two things—a free Fleet and a free Army, ready to apply everywhere and anywhere when required. That was the principle of our British defence down to the year 1860. That policy proved completely successful in the Napoleonic War. Then, in 1860 in a public panic we were frightened by France and Cherbourg, and in a hurry we voted a Military Works loan, and great works were established, and the evil results of those works is stamped upon our policy to-day. In 1872, frightened by Germany and Paris, we enormously extended that policy, and in 1888 we deliberately further extended it, and practically applied it all over the world, whereas before we had only applied it to the United Kingdom. Since 1888 you have had two great object-lessons, which I think should be well borne in mind. You have had a war between China and Japan, and you have had a war between the United States and Spain. Both these wars simply illustrate and repeat on a small scale the teaching of our own history, and the two great lessons are these—that the Power having mastery of the sea and a free army at its command, can go anywhere and do anything; while an inferior sea Power can go nowhere and do nothing, but has to wait for attack, no matter how numerous its army may be. Great fortresses and purely garrison armies for the purposes of defence are the *rule* of the weak naval Power, and not of the strong. Here is policy which I think has put our military machinery out of gear. Under modern conditions of steam, no sea supremacy can, however, secure immunity from insignificant raids upon ports. Therefore, the superior sea Power cannot altogether dispense with moderate local defences at its naval bases; hence the British policy must produce three things—a naval force to secure the mastery of the sea, a mobile army to strike,

and moderate local defences for the naval bases and naval depôts. But the policy of 1860 and its subsequent expansion and development down to the present time, finds us in this position—on the water we have recovered, since 1889, our old position, and we are quite ready, at a moment's notice, to assert that sea supremacy. But on the land and at our ports we are, except in India, endeavouring to fulfil at enormous cost the military *rôle* of an inferior naval Power. The two things are incompatible, and simply spell military waste and weakness, and we are drifting on with an ever-increasing military expenditure on garrisons, and an ever-decreasing army available for field service. My opinion is that had the Admiralty to provide for local defences of naval ports and depôts, or to recoup the Army Estimates for the outlay on so-called naval requirements, I myself am absolutely certain that the Admiralty would at once declare the elaborate fortification and huge garrisons at most of these places were quite a superfluity of military naughtiness on the part of a Power dominant at sea. The House, I hope, will forgive me if I occupy their time at so great a length, but this matter is very serious as regards Wei-hai-wei. If you take the trouble to note the effect of the policy which was commenced in 1860 upon the constitution of our army you will find something like this: by a gradual and unobserved process you have absolutely changed the constitution of the British Army, which in 1860 was one constituted almost entirely for field service, and now you have got a military force the larger proportion of which is devoted to garrison service and garrison service only. Our old motto of ancient days was "Fleet, not works," and now it is "Fleet and works," and plenty of them. The truth is that the military policy of the country has really originated out of proposals of the Royal Engineers, whose real duty is to devise fortifications. I calculate that nearly £3,000,000 of the military expenditure is to meet so-called naval requirements, and the cost of the personnel of the army applied to exaggerated requirements at naval bases. I exclude Malta from that calculation, as it is a military *place d'armes*, and I find that if you compare last year's estimate with this year's estimate, the cost of these garrisons at naval bases has increased in one year by £76,000 a year, and I got from my hon. friend the

Financial Secretary to the War Office an answer yesterday which shows that Wei-hai-wei alone is going to put £67,000 a year extra on the Army Estimates. Therefore I say that this £1,000,000 for defence works, without any guns, whether at Wei-hai-wei or anywhere else, must mean the locking up of more of your troops in garrisons. That is what I strongly object to. I desire to say one word about the selection of a naval base. Observing that a naval base should, if possible, be on an island, and not on the mainland, where you have to defend a land frontier; I will now pass at once to China. Hong Kong is not an island from a strategic point of view, for it has become necessary to acquire a considerable amount of territory in the neighbourhood, and you have now got a land frontier there. Therefore that fact alone will necessitate the employment of a larger military force than you ever had there before. That is also an element to be considered in the general question with regard to Wei-hai-wei. At Wei-hai-wei you have got a frontier which you know nothing at all about, because the First Lord of the Treasury has told us that the area is unknown because the land frontier has not yet been delimited. Put those two things together, and look how your mobile army is going to be eaten into by Hong Kong, which you must protect, and Wei-hai-wei. Only fourteen years ago what did you do in North China? Why, you suddenly seized Port Hamilton. On the 8th of April, 1885, nothing was known at the Foreign Office as to the proposed hoisting of the British flag at Port Hamilton. Before that week was out the Secretary to the Admiralty wired to the admiral on the China station:

"Occupy Port Hamilton and report proceedings."

The Admiral on the China station wrote back and protested that Port Hamilton was by no means a desirable place to hold, and that it would be a constant source of weakness to this country, yet the Foreign Office continued to offer to pay £5,000 a year for Port Hamilton in the face of repeated reports from the Admirals that the place was no use to us. A year afterwards the Lords of the Admiralty felt the danger of the whole position. Now the grounds of the

Admirals' objection are important in view of the acquirement of Wei-hai-wei. The first Admiral also said that it would be:

"More convenient in case of operations for all necessary colliers and store ships to accompany the squadron."

Then we get another Admiral sent to China, who is ordered to investigate and report whether or not in time of war an occupation of Port Hamilton would be a source of strength or weakness to the power of our squadron, and the Admiral replies:

"Considering that military defence is a work of time, it cannot be expected that Port Hamilton can become, as Sir Cooper Key considered necessary, a first-class fortress for many years. Until it is properly fortified I look at its occupation as a source of weakness in war time."

He also says:

"I quite concur with my predecessor as to our true base for naval work being a steam flotilla, which can always be obtained here, to accompany the fleet with all necessary coal, provisions, stores, etc."

Then another Admiral says:

"It is supposed that in war a coaling station in the northern part of our command is necessary. I am not of that opinion. Steam colliers properly fitted must be filled with Welsh coal at Hong Kong and follow our ships. If it is intended to make Port Hamilton a regular colonial possession and fortify it like Gibraltar and Malta there can be no naval objection."

So you see that the whole of the Admirals at that time did not regard a naval base in North China as necessary. What has happened since that time, only fourteen years ago? The speed of our ships has enormously increased, and the staying power of our ships has also been increased and, strategically speaking, Hong Kong is nearer now to the Gulf of Pechili than it was then. The broad lesson from that is this, that we have a happy-go-lucky way of dealing with great problems of imperial defence. The Parliamentary history of Wei-hai-wei shows that we have not mended our ways to any great extent in this respect. It is briefly this—that Wei-hai-wei was first heard of in this House in April, 1888. By questions in this House it transpired that there was no actual survey at the port of Wei-hai-wei until July last year, and that it was not fully completed till the end of September, therefore the report of the naval survey could not be in the hands of the Admiralty much before Christmas. Now that fact is very important, for in the mean-

time, and early in the year, the Government sent out a Royal Engineer and other officers to prepare a military survey for the defence of a port not navally surveyed. Down to the end of last year the Government could not possibly have had full detailed information at all about Wei-hai-wei. I object strongly to treating these great problems, with only a small army to rely upon, in a precipitate manner. The only point I will venture to touch upon in this respect is this. It may be said—you forget that since Port Hamilton was abandoned Russia has gone to Port Arthur. I may be told to look at Port Arthur, and look at nothing else, and to look at Russia and nothing else. But that is the thing which I most object to. I say that you cannot look at a particular sea, or a particular point, and deal with it as an abstract question, but you must look at it with a full knowledge and a full review of the whole of your naval and military position all over the world. If you go to war with Russia you will not carry on your operations at Port Arthur only, but you will also carry them on in the Baltic, Central Asia, perhaps in the Persian Gulf, perhaps in the Black Sea, and other places. Therefore, I decline to look at this question from a limited point of view. What are you going to gain by the acquisition of Wei-hai-wei? I do not think you are going to gain anything except a great outlay upon fortifications. I shall be told that the Admirals say on that station that we ought to have Wei-hai-wei, but how was this question put to them? If you said to them, "Would you like this place as a fortified port and naval base with an army there to defend it?" of course they would say "Yes." But if you asked them, "Is it so desirable a place for a naval base, that naval money should be spent on it?", they would say "No." As to the probable amount of the expenditure which you will have to incur nobody can forecast the consequences. If in Northern China you are pursuing this policy of acquiring one port because some other country takes another are you going to do the same thing because of Cuba and other places? You will say probably "No," because the Americans are our kith and kin. I cannot forget, however, that the bloodiest and most costly war of this century was a war waged on the Continent of America, and you cannot ignore the possibility of war with the United States. And what about Japan? In

either of these contingencies, or combination of the two, will Wei-hai-wei be anything but a source of danger and weakness to you unless you make it a Gibraltar? I say it will be a danger, and, consequently, I ask for information. I ask for a clear statement and not for mysteries. It may seem very easy to criticise and to find fault, especially by one who has not the information possessed by the Government, but the alternative to embarking on this gigantic military expenditure is that you should exhaustively survey that little group of islands, the Miao-Tan, in the Gulf of Pechili before you embark upon this expenditure at Wei-hai-wei. If the Government are in earnest in considering the whole position I do not think they would be rushing into this permanent expenditure until they were quite sure that they could see the end of it if Russia were now to acquire those islands. If any foreign country could establish a torpedo dépôt and a torpedo flotilla at those islands your position might not be a very comfortable one, especially if the islands were acquired by Russia. I desire to say distinctly and clearly that the Government were perfectly right in acquiring Wei-hai-wei for the reason that it gave us diplomatic strength at Pekin. But my point is not the acquirement of Wei-hai-wei, but that the Government ought not, without adequate inquiry and examination, to rush precipitately into a permanent expenditure a few months after acquirement without being able to see the end of it. I contend that we should not begin these permanent works at Wei-hai-wei until we know more about the place. It will be quite sufficient to do what we should have done 100 years ago, and that is to send 100 marines there with a flagstaff and a flag and leave them there. I may be told that this is all very fine, but if the fleet is away the place will be captured. But what of that? If a Russian fleet goes in there and captures the marines it will have to evacuate the place immediately or else be caught in a trap; therefore, I say send 100 marines and a flag and do not embark upon this great policy without further inquiry. The advantage to be gained will be this: we have got that port, and having got it no power can take it in time of peace, and therefore the flagstaff, the flag, and the marines are sufficient; in time of war we should be able to use and hold it as long as we keep

the supremacy of the sea. I for one deeply regret that the Government should embark on a policy of asking this House to provide blindfold £1,000,000 for creating defence works mainly, perhaps, at Wei-hai-wei. I regret it, and I feel strongly upon this point; and if we do not get some more satisfactory explanation I shall certainly vote for the Motion for the adjournment of the Debate.

*MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): I do not wish to follow the hon. and gallant Member for Yarmouth into all the details he has gone into, but there are one or two points I should like to criticise. In the first place I do not think that Wei-hai-wei is even worth the flagstaff, let alone sending the marines. Ever since we have acquired this station the different authorities have been attaching less and less value to it. At first we were told that it was a most valuable strategical base, and now we are told that it is to be a base of secondary importance. I hope the Government will consider seriously whether this money is not being thrown away, as it was in the case of Port Hamilton. I do not wish to find fault with the courtesy of the Under-Secretary of State for War in regard to the manner in which he has conducted this Debate. I am afraid he has got a very weak case, and it is a sample of the rotten policy of this Government in two ways. This Bill is objectionable because the money is going to be voted without telling us what the money is going to be spent upon. We do not want a detailed statement which foreign countries will be able to interpret, and find out how many guns we are going to put there, but what we want to know is where these great works, which are to cost £1,000,000, are going to be put. I do not think these defences will be of much value, for they will be no defence to our Empire at all. But, besides this, there is the very grave objection that a good deal of this money is to be borrowed in a year when we have already borrowed an enormous sum of money, and it is being borrowed in a great measure for unnecessary purposes. We are not told where the defence works are to be. I see that there is to be a dépôt erected at Caterham, but I should like to know why extra accommodation for the men is required, because the number of men put forward by the War Office only exists on paper. Wei-hai-wei, I am sure,

will be a great cost to this country, and will also be a source of weakness, and I would also ask this House to take into its serious consideration the desirability of stopping this tremendous waste of money upon erecting barracks in places where they are not wanted. This money should be spent increasing the strength of the mobile army, which can be sent out to any place where it is wanted. This would be really strengthening the defences of the nation, instead of wasting money employing engineers in work which they are not accustomed to do, building huge barracks at places where they are not wanted, and spending large sums of money upon defences which will be obsolete in ten years. This Bill is an instance of the War Office wasting money which ought to be spent on increasing the efficiency of the Army and the comforts of the soldiers, so that we may have the Army up to the numbers on paper. I hope the Amendment will be carried, if it is only to teach the Government a lesson in economy.

*COLONEL WELBY (Taunton) : I must say from a military point of view that I cannot understand the reticence of the War Office with regard to defensive works. We all know that in such works there must be constructive masonry. If the War Office by waving a wand or by giving the word of command could at once set up these works there might be some reason for this reticence. It seems to me that the only persons whom the reticence of the War Office will affect will be the Members of this House. Wherever this policy is put into action, and where works are being constructed, it stands to reason that men will be collected there, and that fact will be known not only in this country, but also in every country in the world that wants to know. What is the reason for this silence ? Why should we not know where this money is to be expended ? My hon. and gallant friend the Member for Great Yarmouth has drawn attention to the money spent at Wei-hai-wei and to the principle the War Office has adopted—a principle which requires great consideration in this House—of playing into the hands of the Admiralty, and taking on itself expenditure which really ought to be borne by the Admiralty. The Admiralty is unquestionably the more popular service, and why should it not take on its

self all the money it requires. It seems to me that the War Office in taking these Naval bases, whether primary or secondary, are assuming responsibility which is not theirs. I myself cannot see what possible military advantage there is at Wei-hai-wei. If it is of any advantage to the empire it is solely on account of the Navy, and the Army is absolutely uninterested in it. If we were to invade China we would not land a great force at Wei-hai-wei. When we invaded China before we did not land troops there, and the conditions have not changed since. Wei-hai-wei is simply and solely an advantage to sailors. There is great complaint that the money for the Army is constantly increasing, and I believe the country does not get full value for it, but I most earnestly protest against the policy by which the War Office takes on itself expense which really ought to be borne by the Admiralty. I can see the advantage of Gibraltar and Malta, but I cannot see the advantage, from a military point of view, of Wei-hai-wei and many other naval bases throughout the world. Why should they not be paid for and garrisoned by the Admiralty ? The argument used is that the marines—the *corps d'elite*—are only available, and that if you increase their number you reduce their fitness. It would be far better for the Admiralty to increase the number of marines and garrison these naval bases than let the War Office face the difficulty. Short service soldiers put away at Wei-hai-wei for a year or two are not half as valuable as soldiers trained in this country or in India. The whole system of modern warfare requires that men and officers should be thoroughly trained, and they cannot be trained in these places. If we cannot meet the difficulty in any other way, it would be better to return to the old system of garrison battalions. Why should we not have battalions specially reserved for this purpose ? My own impression is that one of the difficulties of recruiting is that men are put away in these out-of-the-way places. If, however, we have garrison battalions men would enlist for this special purpose, and there would be no idea of deceiving them. We should also be able to properly train the other battalions and fit them to meet the soldiers of Continental countries. I regret to say that the policy of the War Office with regard to the construction of barracks is very unsatisfactory. A very large sum of

money is going to be spent on new barracks on Salisbury Plain, and the result will be that there will be three large camps—Salisbury Plain, Aldershot, and Shorncliffe—all south of the Thames. If ever the time comes—and I am one of those who believe it will come—when Great Britain will have to be divided into army corps districts, you shall have three important camps in one district in the south. It would be better instead of spending this money on Salisbury Plain, which is now an exceedingly good exercise ground, that a camp should be formed in the northern part of England or in Scotland, which would form the central point of the northern army corps. I am very much in favour of the policy of placing cubicles in barracks, and I would urge it on the War Office experimentally, and that a certain number of the best men in every battalion should be drafted into them, and of course if they are misused the men can be replaced. At the present moment the barrack rooms are most unhome-like. I venture to say that in many barrack rooms a soldier who ventures to kneel down morning and evening is likely to have words, and perhaps things harder than words, thrown at him for doing what he believes to be his duty. I know there will be bad characters in every regiment, but we should try and get good men, and one of the ways to do that is to adapt the accommodation in the barracks to the requirements of modern life. I had the good fortune to see some of the barrack rooms in Russia, where men are compelled to serve, but yet that country is far in advance of us as regards barrack accommodation. I saw the beds in each barrack room placed a certain distance from the wall, and the space between the bed and the wall was partitioned off and made into a little room where a man could sit undisturbed and read, write, or kneel down. Is it any wonder we do not get troops? It is the old story. The influence of bad characters is a far greater power in the barrack room than the influence of good men, and the result is that when a young man joins the Army he is exposed to infinite temptation. These are some of the difficulties in the way of recruiting. I would urge on the War Office, if they want an efficient and cheap Army, to throw on the Admiralty all responsibility for these

naval bases, and, instead of spending money unnecessarily on barracks, to adopt the cubicle or other system which would make the soldier's life more acceptable. By that means they would put from us the urgent necessity, which is coming upon us day by day, of compulsory service, and would enable us to continue to trust to the voluntary system alone.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I do not propose to vote for the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman opposite, and I think the Government have done much for which they should be praised. Far be it from me to criticise their proposals, but I do hope that in constructing the barracks they will not put the matter into the hands of the Royal Engineers. I think my hon. and gallant friend the Member for Great Yarmouth was perfectly right in saying that the Engineers, being sappers and miners, were good men in laying submarine mines and building wooden bridges, but that they left much to be desired as architects. A good many years ago the Royal Engineers put up colossal barracks at Aldershot at considerable expense, and then forgot to put in the staircases. Then there is the story about plans being prepared for barracks at Hong Kong and Belfast, and the result was that the barrack intended for Hong Kong, with the verandahs included, was erected in Belfast, where it rains five days out of six, and the barrack intended for Belfast was erected in Hong Kong. I desire to support what the hon. Member for the Newport Division of Shropshire said with reference to the comfort and convenience of the private soldier. The time is past when men should be stuck in barracks the whole of their natural lives. I have often been told by decent fellows who joined the Army that the thing which repelled them most was the condition of the troop room. I do not see why the War Office should not take into consideration the question of supplying cubicles in these new barracks. I should like to say a word about the temperance men. A great many of them now join the Army, and about one-third of the British Army in India at the present moment consists of men who have sworn off drink. When a young fellow joins a battalion he has no choice between the recreation room and the canteen, and there is no reason why a temperance room should not be added. It seems to me there is also no reason

why soldiers should not be allowed a room to have their meals in apart from the barrack room. In workhouses you don't make paupers have their dinners in the wards, and, whatever hon. Gentlemen opposite may think, the British soldier deserves to be treated at least as well as a pauper. With reference to the sum put down for rifle ranges, I am bound to say that £40,000 is absolutely inadequate. You could not get a rifle range sufficient for the Army at that price even in Essex. It is all very well to say wait. But you must remember land has a tendency to go up in price, and if you do not purchase the land now you may have to pay more for it later. The War Office say they cannot afford to buy the new magazine rifle, but, if that is the case, what is the use of running the British Army at a cost of £21,000,000 a year? If the barracks are made more comfortable and decent the War Office will get better men and save money in the end. Where are they going to get men otherwise? I do not know, and I think they do not know themselves. It would be better to induce men to take the shilling than to have recourse to conscription. The authorities of the War Office ought to know that more flies are caught with honey than with vinegar.

MR. DUNCOMBE (Cumberland, Egremont): I notice with considerable suspicion that in the schedule the item of £40,000 put down for rifle ranges also includes accommodation for manœuvres and mobilisation. I am afraid that that will absorb a very large portion of this sum, which is already totally inadequate. It is especially on behalf of the Volunteer forces that I make these remarks. Since the introduction of the new rifle a large number of the old ranges have become useless. A Volunteer who is not able to shoot cannot be described as efficient, but unless he has some means of practising it is impossible that he can become even an average shot. While this large sum has been voted for military works I think the attention of my hon. friend should be specially directed to what I know to be a serious drawback to the efficiency of the Volunteer forces, and I would venture to suggest to him that if he cannot see his way to build new ranges for the Volunteers the very least he should do would be to make them generous travelling allowances to enable them to reach the existing ranges.

Major Rasch.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: There has been a most interesting discussion for the last hour or two on questions relating mainly to the comfort of the soldier, and a desire has been expressed by all who have taken part in this Debate on this large expenditure that there should be full consideration for what can be done to increase the comfort of the soldier. I can conceive no more essential object than that. We are apt to forget that the years roll on, and that we are now in a different position altogether from that which we occupied ten or twenty years ago. We have a different class of men to deal with in the Army. The standard of life outside the Army has improved very much, to the benefit of the whole nation, and therefore the sort of life which was thought suitable for the soldier a very few years ago would be, if not absolutely deterrent, at all events very little attractive, to the class of men whom we wish to enlist in the army now. I refer to all that has been said as to the provision of cubicles, dining-rooms, and so forth. I understood from the Under-Secretary in introducing this Bill, that he promised that this side of the question would be kept very closely in view. Dining-halls especially I think the hon. Gentleman undertook should be provided. One other point has been referred to which has a great deal of force, and that is the question of temperance rooms. There is hardly an institution I know—and I include in the word "institution" everything from the Secretary of State or a field-marshal down, whether it be a man, a thing, or an organisation—no institution has done so much good to the army as the Army Temperance Association, and yet I understand that it has sometimes occurred that when a battalion in which there is a flourishing branch of that organisation, and to which the large proportion of the men belong, has to move to another barrack, there is no place in which the meetings can be held, and that the whole organisation goes to pieces, and the battalion sinks back into the condition in which it originally was. If that is so, or even if there is any danger of its being partially realised, one sees what a tremendous claim, not on the generosity but on the patriotism of the Secretary of State for War, this society and the whole organisation it has established has. The hon. and gallant Member for Yarmouth gave us a long account of

his views on the interesting and apparently never-ending subject of Wei-hai-wei, and I heard with sympathy all he said up to a certain point. The hon. and gallant Gentleman argued that Wei-hai-wei was useless. He denounced small naval bases as nothing but nuisances to a naval Power, and he pointed out the impolicy of spending money on fortifications at Wei-hai-wei. Up to that point I was with the hon. and gallant Member, and thought what an interesting and effective speech he was making. But then it turned out that he had his eye upon two or three islands in the Gulf of Pechili which he thought would be much better than Wei-hai-wei, and that we ought to send two or three marines with a flagstaff to take possession of them. There I part company with the hon. and gallant Gentleman. But the difficulty with regard to Wei-hai-wei is even greater than the hon. and gallant Member pointed out. Speaking under correction, and with every possible diffidence, I believe it is considered by the predominant naval opinion that it is undesirable to have a small naval base in that position for the purpose of assisting the operations of the Fleet. Besides that we must not forget that naval power is no longer the commanding power in the north of China. We have changed that. We have, by admitting Russia to the full possession of Manchuria, brought her and her army within striking distance of the capital of China, and therefore we are no longer the same formidable Power with our Fleet that we were a year or even a month or two ago. It alters the situation entirely. But Wei-hai-wei was acquired, as the hon. and gallant Gentleman pointed out, apparently for two purposes. The first was to give strength and confidence to the Chinese Government—one does not see how it is to be done, and certainly that object has not yet been accomplished—and the other is that it should be a *place d'armes* in which we could train and drill the Chinese army for our own purposes. For any of these purposes I fail to see the particular utility of Wei-hai-wei. I certainly regret the money that is being expended or that it is contemplated to expend upon it. But, Sir, the main purpose for which I rose was to support the Amendment now before the House, of the existence of which probably nine-tenths of the Members who listen to me are totally

unaware. The Amendment is to the effect that we ought not to agree to the Second Reading of the Bill without a more definite statement in the Bill of the purposes to which this large sum of money is to be applied. Now this is a point on which I made a few observations the last time the Bill was before the House. What we want is, to put it plainly and simply, that the White Paper—the Paper which professes to give us the details of the expenditure—should be made the schedule of the Bill. In the earlier part of the discussion my right hon. friend the Member for West Monmouthshire argued in favour of more information being given and a better control afforded to the House of Commons over the expenditure; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer objected that in the Naval Works Act the schedule was found to be a little too complete—that there were too many details and columns, which were confusing to the uninstructed and ingenuous mind. Supposing that that was so, I myself made a more modest request of the Government—not that they should give the details of what was spent last year and of what was going to be spent next year, although I should like to have that, but that they should at least have a schedule in the Bill which would explain to the House of Commons where and for what purposes this money is to be expended. I should like not only the general heads of purposes all over the world to which it is to be devoted, but the particular places and the particular services for which it is to be used. Then we would be not only thoroughly informed, but also better able to control the policy involved in this measure. Sir, I am bound to say it requires some control, because these loans come fast and furious upon the House and the country. The present loan proposed for military works comes after the Military Works Act of 1897. Now, as I make out, at the end of the financial year there would still remain unexpended under the previous Act two and three-quarter millions, and yet we are now asked by the same Government which brought in the Military Works Act of 1897 for four millions more. I have often said that I am not one to refuse money when the responsible Government comes forward with the declaration that the money is necessary. The circumstances would be very exceptional which

would induce me to do so. At the same time it argues something wrong, some want of purpose, or some indecision or confusion of mind, that we should have a loan of over five millions in 1897, and that, while at the end of this year there will still be unexpended of that loan two and three-quarter millions, we should be asked for another loan of four millions. Moreover, all this time, as one of my hon. friends pointed out, expenditure is going on under the Estimates for the very same purposes, thus creating a state of confusion which no one, I think, is capable of penetrating or rearranging. Take the case of such places as Malta or Gibraltar, quoted by one of my hon. friends. There is also the case of Colchester, where large sums are to be expended under this loan on the building of barracks, although large sums are voted every year for the very same purpose. Who knows which is loan and which is Estimate, and how are the very gentlemen who control these matters and are responsible for them able thoroughly to keep the whole proceeding in check when these different operations are going on at the same time? A loan is, of course, a necessity on many occasions, and in most cases a convenience, because it enables continuous service to be carried on without interruption from the whims of Parliament or the vicissitudes that occur in the voting of money in this House. But a loan running concurrently with Estimates for the very same purposes and dovetailing into them must inevitably lead, I will not say to maladministration, but certainly to lack of proper control in the administration. These are the considerations which, I think, should make us extremely careful when dealing with these loans. What is easier than to have a large Loan Act? It is pleasing to our feelings that we are spending four millions in strengthening the position of the country. The least the Government should do is to let the House know what is included in this expenditure, and to let us know it by putting it into the schedule of the Bill, so that we may have that control over it to which, as the guardians of the taxpayers, we are entitled.

*MR. WYNDHAM: In the early part of his speech the right hon. Gentleman referred to topics which have been ably handled by many hon. and gallant gentlemen—topics which touch the comfort of

Mr. Duncombe.

our soldiers and our efforts to raise the standard of their condition. I have already undertaken that dining halls for the men will form part of the plans for the new barracks to be constructed on Salisbury Plain. The question of the provision of cubicles in the barracks has been earnestly considered by the military advisers of the War Office, but it is a question upon which two opinions exist, and no Government would be justified in making so important a change of policy as that involved in the provision of cubicles unless they were able to say that they were acting on the recommendation of their chief military experts of the day. That the Government are not able to say with regard to cubicles; but we do say that we wish we could give the cubicles, and we engage that the provision of better barrack accommodation shall not proceed upon lines which will preclude the introduction of cubicles should it be decided upon hereafter. Then there is the question of special rooms for the members of the Army Temperance Association. In that case also it is not quite plain sailing. Hon. and gallant Members are aware that in every barrack, apart from the canteen, there is a recreation establishment, containing a games room, a concert room, a reading-room with books and papers, a coffee bar and supper room, but in which no alcoholic liquor is sold. Now, there are two schools of opinion in regard to recreation rooms. There are some who hope to inculcate habits of temperance by getting the men to take a moderate amount of alcoholic drink. They urge that beer should be allowed in supper rooms. On the other hand, it is urged by others that there should be attached to the recreation room a temperance club to which none but teetotalers would be admitted. If such a club were allowed, it would introduce cliqueism into the Army, and therefore the War Office has opposed it. The War Office, in fact, takes up a middle course between the two suggestions—we allow no beer in the supper room, and they allow no separate club. The sum of £40,000 does not represent all that is being done to provide rifle ranges. Under the Military Works Act of 1897, half a million was taken for that purpose, and it has not all been expended. Sites have been and are to be purchased. The £40,000 will be devoted to providing ranges for the Volunteers on the principle I have previously explained—that if

several corps join and guarantee, say, three-fourths of the cost of a range, the War Office will find the remaining fourth. By this means we may perhaps be able, with the £40,000, to provide from eight to a dozen ranges. As to the policy of the form in which the War Department puts forward its proposals, £1,000,000 is claimed for a defence scheme without giving particulars, because the nature of the services for which it is required have been explained, and the Government have given the House the high authority on which their Estimates are based. Those responsible locally in different parts of the world have submitted their requirements to a joint Naval and Military Committee at home. That Committee has been assisted by the Colonial Defence Committee, and has reported to the Defence Committee of the Cabinet. The latter has referred the whole question to a small conference of experts. The hon. and gallant Member for Yarmouth said that instead of concentrating our attention on Wei-hai-wei, we ought to look at the naval and military position all over the earth. That is precisely what these Committees have been doing for years, and they have decided that at certain places, from naval considerations, a certain number of guns of a given size and earthen platforms on which they can stand are needed.

SIR JOHN COLOMB: I was told this Vote was not for armaments, but only for works.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The number of guns required determines the extent of the earthworks on which they are to stand. The guns have been placed on the Estimates, and the works are to be provided for by loan. Now as to the point raised by the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, that we are building at the same place on Loan and on Estimates. On loan it has been thought right to build new barracks and add wings to old barracks in which any increase of the army is to be housed, but the War Department do not under a loan provide for annual repairs. When we are housing additions to the Army—and that is the point of departure for this loan—it might well be that they build a new barrack for a new battalion and add a wing to an old barrack, and that in the Estimates for the year they also improve the water supply and drainage at the same station.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: There is an item of £30,000 to build new barracks at Colchester for Infantry. It is no question of repairs.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Yes; it is an unfortunate case of cross-bookkeeping between the Army and the Navy. The Leader of the Opposition may take it from me that we do scrupulously observe the division I have laid down—that is to say, new barracks are under loan, repairs and so forth are under Estimates. I do not think I need answer in detail the rather wide-flung accusations against this policy of defence. I cannot accept either the history or the statistics which have been given of the barrack policy of the last sixty years. The hon. Member for Yarmouth told us that we took £3,500,000 under the Act of 1872. So we did, but that was for the sole purpose of building depôts for the new territorial regiments which had been linked together. It does not touch any question of finding house accommodation for the Army. Then, when the hon. Member for Aberdeenshire said that we used to find money for barracks under Estimates, I have to remind the House that the fact is that barracks were practically not built between the Crimea and the reawakening of the Government to their responsibilities in the eighties. That is why we have had to come to Parliament for these big loans. By the divisions in the circulated Schedule we have shown the whole policy of the Government. If hon. Members disapprove of that policy, they have the remedy in their hands. If they approve of it, I think I may appeal to the House to sanction a measure which, I notice, commends itself even to the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Although the speech of the hon. Gentleman was extremely able and interesting, it has not dealt, in a single particular, with the Amendment before the House. What is the Amendment? It is that this White Paper should be made part of the Bill; and the reason is that this House should have control, not only over the scheme *en bloc*, but over every detail, over every individual item of the scheme. When the hon. Gentleman first put this scheme before the House he declared that the House would have the same power of control that it would have if the schedule was in the Bill. I challenged him on that point, and I proved to demonstration that you could not have the same control

over every item of expenditure. You may challenge on one item, but, having done so, you must accept every other in the Bill. The hon. Gentleman has chosen to discuss every other point raised in the Debate, but says not a word on the most important of all. To the demand made that the House should have control, not only of the scheme as a whole, but of every item of it, the last word of the Government is "silence."

*SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, North East): I confess to a feeling of great disappointment with the answer given by my hon. friend the Under Secretary for War. He has given us a *non possumus* to two or three important matters of barrack reform which have been brought to the notice of the Government. My hon. friend, to whose great ability I wish to bear my humble testimony, has said that the military authorities are not at one in the matter of those reforms, which some of us think of great importance in regard to the character of the Army, especially in the matter of comfortable rooms, in which soldiers who are abstainers may meet. Well, the Quartermaster-General of the Army, who was Commander-in-Chief in India, within the last month has made a very strong statement on this point. He said :

"I believe myself immensely in having separate accommodation for total abstainers." He knew the enormous advantage that accrued to India from temperance. When I was there myself I found as many as 500 in some battalions who were total abstainers. A third of the whole European forces in India are temperance soldiers, but the number is smaller in England. The reason for the increase in India is that the authorities there encourage temperance and provide a comfortable room for temperance soldiers. I consider we should be promoting temperance in the Army and the well-being of the soldiers by providing separate accommodation for those who are total abstainers. I am afraid the Under Secretary of State for War has not expressed his own conviction, but has spoken for the War Office. We ought to encourage decent men to join the Army and endeavour to raise the character of those who belong to it, for it is in this way that it can be made most efficient and satisfactory.

Mr. Edmund Robertson.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I entirely agree with what has fallen from the lips of the right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down, but although temperance is a most important subject in the Army and elsewhere, it is not precisely the question at present before the House. We have a definite and substantial Amendment moved by my hon. friend the Member for Forfar. The Amendment simply means that we want to know how money is to be spent before we vote it. Everybody must admit that the Army expenditure has gone up by leaps and bounds in the Budget, but in addition to that we must remember the vast amounts that have been borrowed during the last two or three years. I do not think the Under Secretary of State for War answered in any sort of way the observations made by my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition. My right hon. friend asked why the details of the White Paper were not included in the Bill. I listened with great attention, but I could not gather from the hon. Gentleman's speech that he made any answer. No details have been given as to how the million is going to be spent. The hon. Gentleman said that the Bill has been prepared on a philosophical and argumentative basis. When we get into the philosophical question that is entirely beyond me, but when the hon. Gentleman says it is argumentative I quite agree with him. It is most argumentative, and that is what led me to rise and to argue the matter with the hon. Gentleman. How is this money to be spent? The hon. Gentleman said it was to be spent in all parts of the world upon earth platforms. Does he really suppose that he is going to spend one million sterling in different parts of the world on earth platforms without Foreign Governments being perfectly aware that expenditure is being made? We know perfectly well that Foreign Governments have spies everywhere. The object of one Government is to find out what another Government is doing, and you cannot spend one million sterling on earth platforms without every other Government knowing it. The only secret there is is, that we, the House of Commons, should not be allowed to know it. We give a blank cheque in a free-and-easy way to the hon. Gentleman, and he says, "I am going to spend it on earth platforms in certain parts of the world." We

are not asking the hon. Gentleman to give us the details of some particular fortification; we only want to know where the money is going to be spent. It could do no possible harm for the House of Commons to be told in what part of the world this money is to be spent. We are building a barracks at Wei-hai-wei, but why we are doing it I do not know. We have Chinese soldiers there, but those Chinese soldiers are not British subjects. We are going to house these Chinese subjects and give them guns to defend Wei-hai-wei, but against whom they are to defend it I have not the remotest idea. But when we have spent this money on earth platforms we shall be told that we must have a species of fortifications, or these valuable properties will be taken by anybody who comes along. We have heard a great deal about expenditure in the Transvaal. We know perfectly well that there are troops going to the Transvaal. Is any of this money to be spent in Natal or the Cape Colony? The result of the Oldham election which we have just learned in this House shows that the Government is apparently not being supported by the country in this policy or in anything else. In the result of this election the House has a distinct reply to the Government policy; they are defeated hip and thigh. I hope the result will supply an argument to the hon. Gentleman to give up this miserable policy of secrecy—of putting his hand into our pockets without telling us how he is going to spend the money.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): This Amendment, I think, goes a little too far, because it rejects the proposals the Government have made on their own responsibility. Undoubtedly it is a strange thing that this House should be asked to raise this money by loan with so little information with reference to it. With regard to the proposed expenditure on barracks the remedy lies entirely in the hands of hon. Members opposite. All they have to do is to move in Committee that the contents of the White Paper be scheduled to the Bill. As regards the first item, however, no details are given, and the consequence will be that the House will be deprived of control over this expenditure. The plea of secrecy

is quite absurd. I appeal to the Government to schedule the White Paper to the Bill, and to give the House a detailed statement with regard to the first item.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): I venture to suggest that one reason why we have not the information is because of the bad faith of the Government. During the Debate on the Estimates attention was called to the fact that Piershill, Edinburgh, in consequence of its bad sanitary condition, was visited with typhoid fever, disease, and premature death. The Financial Secretary told us that £100,000 would be granted in this Bill for carrying out the necessary rebuilding. So far as I can see, however, only £25,000 is to be devoted to Edinburgh under this Bill.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): The policy of secrecy in regard to this Bill is, I think, one of the most monstrous acts that was ever attempted by the House of Commons. To tell the House of Commons that it is essential, from motives of policy, to withhold information as to where this money is to be spent is to turn the House of Commons into ridicule, and all other proceedings in connection with this Bill into a farce. No Government, not even the Government of Russia, could conceal from the general public such information. Let us compare for a moment the conduct of the Government in reference to these alleged earthworks and their conduct in reference to the new warships which are being built. In the Naval Estimates of the year the House is informed not only of the names of the ships, but is put in possession of every possible detail with regard to them. But while this is done with reference to the new warships, where secrecy might be attempted, and, to a great extent, successfully carried out, what can we say of the Government which deliberately asks for a million of money without giving any information beyond the fact that a million is to be spent on alleged earthworks? I suspect that a

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lone so, you must accept
the Bill. The hon. Gentleman
wishes to discuss every other
Debate, but says nothing
important of all.
that the House should
only of the scheme
every item of it,
Government is "satisfied".

*SIR JAMES FIFTH (Berwick, North East):—
of great disappointment was given by my hon. friend the Secretary for War, when he said that we could not *convenimus* to discuss every item of the scheme. I have been brought to the conclusion that the hon. Gentleman I wish to speak to, has said that the changes are not at all important. My hon. friend the Secretary for War, who was Quartermaster-General, has said that the reforms, which are to be made in the Army, are not at all important. My hon. friend the Secretary for War, who was Quartermaster-General, has said that the reforms, which are to be made in the Army, are not at all important. My hon. friend the Secretary for War, who was Quartermaster-General, has said that the reforms, which are to be made in the Army, are not at all important.

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Edward J. (Somerset)
Lord (Lanes)
Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Hon. Charles Hedley
Hon. Humphry Napier
Hon. Percy M.
Hon. Wm. E. Murray

Valentia, Viscount
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Jos. Powell-(Birm.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)

Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wylvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Beck, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
William Walrond and Mr.
Anstruther.

NOES.

Rt. Hon. H. Henry
John Emmott
Thomas (Derbyshire)
Wentworth C. B.
Alfred
man, Thomas Ryburn
John
ell, James
bell-Bannerman, Sir H.
on, Richard Knight
y, Frederick
ning, Francis Allston
Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
h, Walter Owen
iel, James Henry
t, Michael
ar, Arthur
on, John
gan, P. C.
n, Sir William
ns, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
maurice, Lord Elmonde
ard, Daniel Ford

Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (Carmarvons.)
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'l'd)
Logan, John William
Macalpine, Daniel
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Maddison, Fred
Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Cardmarthen)
Oldroyd, Mark
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh

Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
Rickett, J. Compton
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Warner, T. Courtenay T.
Wedderburn, Sir John
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. M'Arthur.

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question." The House divided :—Ayes, 159 ; Noes, 64. (Division List, No. 226.)

AYES

Son, Sir Wm. Reynell
rol, Sir William
kinson, Rt. Hon. John
agot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
lfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch')
lfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
anbury, Frederick George
arton, Dunbar Plunkett
athurst, Hon. Allen B.
each, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
ethell, Commander
igwood, James
ll, Charles
lindell, Colonel Henry
ensor, Henry Cosmo Orme
oscawen, Arthur Griffith
ousfield, William Robert
rassey, Albert
rodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
brookfield, A. Montagu
ullard, Sir Harry
arlile, William Walter
ecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
haloner, Captain R. G. W.
amberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
amberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)

Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
harrington, Spencer
helsea, Viscount
lare, Octavius Leigh
cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
oghill, Douglas Harry
ollings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
olston, Chas. E. H. Athole
orbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
ornwallis, F. Stanley W.
ox, Irwin Edward B.
ranborne, Viscount
urzon, Viscount
dalkeith, Earl of
avies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
enny, Colonel
ickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
disraeli, C. Ralph
orington, Sir John Edward
oughty, George
ouglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
ouglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
uncombe, Hon. Hubert V.

inch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
isher, William Hayes
Fitzgerald, Sir Robert Penrose
letcher, Sir Henry
oster, Colonel (Lancaster)
oster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
alloway, William Johnson
arfit, William
ibbons, J. Lloyd
odson, Sir Augustus F.
oldsworthy, Major-General
orst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
oschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo's)
oschen, George J. (Sussex)
eene, Walford D. (Wednesb.)
eene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
eene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
retton, John
ull, Sir Cameron

hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
hanson, Sir Reginald
are, Thomas Leigh
henderson, Alexander
ill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol),

portion of this money is intended for other purposes altogether, and that the Government desire to have a sum of money to draw upon for operations in the Transvaal or other parts of the world as they may think necessary —

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I beg to move that the Question be now put.

MR. SPEAKER : The Question is that the Question be now put.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal S.) (sitting and, with his hat on) : I beg to sub-

mit as a point of order that the Question was put after twelve o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER : I rose as nearly as possible at twelve o'clock. By the Standing order the closure may be moved at the interruption of business, and the interruption of business takes place when I rise and say "Order, order!"

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 159 ; Noes 64. (Division List, No. 225.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man.)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir MH (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bonsor, H. Cosmo Orme
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carlile, William Walter
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, C. E. H. Athole
Corbett, A. C. (Glasgow)
Cornwallis, F. Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edward B.
Cranborne, Viscount
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-

Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St Geo's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, Henry I. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Henderson, Alexander
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howell, William Tudor
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kemp, George
Kenyon, James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)

Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttleton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclare, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Milton, Viscount
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'tshsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Muntip, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'ly)
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
Simeon, Sir Barrington

Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs)
 Stirling, Maxwell, Sir J. M.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray

Valentia, Viscount
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell. (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)

Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. Henry
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
 Goddard, Daniel Ford

Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jones, William (Carmarvon.)
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'ld.)
 Logan, John William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 Maddison, Fred
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Price, Robert John
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh

Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Strachey, Edward
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Warner, T. Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir John
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur.

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part 64. (Division List, No. 226.)

AYES

Anson, Sir Wm. Reynell
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitz Roy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barton, Dunbar Plunkett
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bethell, Commander
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscafen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry

Carlile, William Walter
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)

Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collingr, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
 Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
 Cornwallis, F. Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edward B.
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
 Disraeli, C. Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.

Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Man'r)
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)

Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fitzgerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)

Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Godson, Sir Augustus F.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Greene, Walford D. (Wednesb.)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Carbs.)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron

Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)

Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howell, William Tudor

Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)

Kemp, George
Kenyon, James
Kenyon-Sianey, Col. William

Lawrence, Sir E Durning (Corn
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonerry)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon Alfred

Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)

M'Killop, James
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milbank, Sir Powlett C. John
Milton, Viscount
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hon. F. (Monmouthshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H.A. Deptford
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry

Nicol, Donald Ninian

Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward

Quilter, Sir Cuthbert

Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rentul, James Alexander
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matt. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Round, James

Russell, Gen. F.S. (Cheltenham)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley

Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybridge)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier

Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray

Valentia, Viscount

Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-Lyne)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Williams, J. Powell (Birr.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES —
Sir William Walron and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth, C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John

Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Clough, Walter Owen
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.

Dalziel, James Henry
Davitt, Michael
Dewar, Arthur
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Dunn, Sir William
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond

Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)

Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
Healy, T. M. (N. Louth)
Hepperwick, Thos. Charles H.
Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
Horniman, Frederick John

Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Logan, John William

MacAuleese, Daniel
MacNeill, J. Gordon Swift
Maddison, Fred.
Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)

Oldroyd, Mark
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Price, Robert John

Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
Rickett, J. Compton

Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)

Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips

Warner, Thomas Courtnay T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Williams, John C. (Notts.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES —
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. M'Arthur.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR claimed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."
the main Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 159 ; Noes,
Main Question put accordingly, "That 53. (Division List, No. 227.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)	Morrell, George Herbert
Arrol, Sir William	Galloway, William Johnson	Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Garfit, William	Muntz, Philip A.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch.)	Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.	Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Myers, William Henry
Banbury, Frederick George	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Parkes, Ebenezer
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury)	Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Bethell, Commander	Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)	Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Bill, Charles	Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs)	Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Gretton, John	Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme	Gull, Sir Cameron	Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George	Rentoul, James Alexander
Bousfield, William Robert	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.	Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'dl)
Brassey, Albert	Hanson, Sir Reginald	Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Hare, Thomas Leigh	Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Henderson, Alexander	Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Bullard, Sir Harry	Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)	Robinson, Brooke
Carlile, William Walter	Hornby, Sir William Henry	Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)	Houston, R. P.	Round James
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Howell, William Tudor	Russell, Gen. F. S. (Ch'lt'n'l'm)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)	Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Charrington, Spencer	Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton	Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Chelsea, Viscount	Johnston, William (Belfast)	Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
Clare, Octavius Leigh	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)	Simeon, Sir Barrington
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	Kemp, George	Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Kenyon, James	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William	Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Colomb, Sir John C. Ready	Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)	Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)	Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)	Thornton, Percy M.
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)	Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Cox, Irwin Edward B.	Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie	Valentia, Viscount
Cranborne, Viscount	Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.	
Curzon, Viscount	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Dalkeith, Earl of	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller	Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Loyd, Archie Kirkman	Whiteley, H. (Ashton-un.-L.)
Denny, Colonel	Lucas-Shadwell, William	Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Dickson-Poynier, Sir John P.	Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred	Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Macartney, W. G. Ellison	Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Dorington, Sir John Edward	Macdona, John Cumming	Wyndham, George
Doughty, George	MacIver, David (Liverpool)	Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	MacLure, Sir John William	Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)	
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	M'Killop, James	Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.	Martin, Richard Biddulph	
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)	Milbank, S. P. Charles John	TELLERS FOR THE AYES,
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)	Milton, Viscount	Sir William Walrond and
Finch, George H.	Moore, William (Antrim, N.)	Mr. Anstruther.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Morgan, Hon. F. (Monm'tsh.)	
Fisher, William Hayes		
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-		
Fletcher, Sir Henry		

NOES.

Barlow, John Emmott	Channing, Francis Allston	Dunn, Sir William
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)	Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Evans, Sam. T. (Glamorgan)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Clough, Walter Owen	Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Billson, Alfred	Dalziel, James Henry	Goddard, Daniel Ford
Burns, John	Davitt, Michael	Harwood, George
Caldwell, James	Dewar, Arthur	Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale
Cawley, Frederick	Doogan, P. C.	Healy, T. M. (N. Louth)

Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Logan, John William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 Maddison, Fred.
 Morgan, J Lloyd (Carmarthen)

Oldroyd, Mark
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, J. (Northumberland)
 Price, Robert John
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Strachey, Edward

Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Dillon and Mr. Buchanan.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

METROPOLIS MANAGEMENT ACTS AMENDMENT (BYE-LAWS) BILL [Lords].

Considered in Committee, and reported, with Amendments; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next.

Considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, to be considered upon Monday day next.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before One of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 7th July 1899.

SOUDAN CAMPAIGN, 1896-7-8.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE FORCES.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that he had received a letter from Major-General Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, in return to the thanks of this House and to the Resolutions of the 8th of June last, communicated to him in obedience to an Order of this House of the said 8th of June.

The said letter was read, as follows :

17, Belgrave Square, July 3, 1899.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th June, forwarding to me the Resolution of the House of Lords expressing their Lordships' thanks to the troops recently engaged in the Soudan, under my command, and desiring that I should communicate the same to the officers and men so employed.

In assuring your Lordship that I shall not fail to carry out the wishes of the House of Lords, I beg to express my deep gratitude for the honour that has been thus paid to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the force, as well as to myself.

I am, my Lord,

Your very obedient Servant,
KITCHENER OF KHARTOUM,
Major-General.

The letter was ordered to be entered on the Journals.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT.

And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

DARWEN CORPORATION BILL.

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn ; the Orders made on the 23rd of June and on Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed.

GOOLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

BLACKPOOL IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

LOWESTOFT PROMENADE PIER BILL.

The Queen's consent signified ; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION BILL.

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn ; the Orders made on the 8th of June and on Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed.

REDDITCH GAS BILL.

Committee to meet on Tuesday next.

MILLWALL DOCK BILL.

Committed.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION BILL.

Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed.

BRADFORD TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed ; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

ROCHDALE CANAL BILL [Lords].

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

MILTON CREEK CONSERVANCY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 9) BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

CENTRAL ELECTRIC SUPPLY BILL.

SHIREBROOK AND DISTRICT GAS BILL.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE STIPENDIARY JUSTICE BILL.

WEST MIDDLESEX WATER BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

CHURCH STRETTON WATER BILL [Lords].

ST. NEOT'S WATER BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

LIVERPOOL OVERHEAD RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

ST. JAMES'S AND PALL MALL ELECTRIC LIGHT BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to, with an Amendment; the said Amendment considered, and agreed to.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Message from the Commons giving leave to Thomas Wallace Russell, Esq. (a Member), to attend the Select Committee (pursuant to message of yesterday).

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

BROMPTON AND PICCADILLY CIRCUS RAILWAY BILL.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

DERWENT VALLEY WATER BILL.

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Monk Bretton be

proposed to the House as a Member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Wandsworth; read, and agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.

BRADFORD TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

LEEDS CORPORATION BILL.

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.): E. Malmesbury, E. Craven, E. Egerton (Chairman), L. Bagot, L. Wandsworth. Agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday next, at Eleven of the o'clock, and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).

Seventeenth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1898; Part III.

ORDNANCE SURVEY.

Report of the progress of the Ordnance Survey to the 31st March 1899.

SHIPPING CASUALTIES.

Abstract of the Returns made to the Board of Trade of shipping casualties which occurred on or near the coasts, or in rivers and harbours, of the United Kingdom, from 1st July 1897, to 30th June 1898; and shipping casualties which occurred to British vessels elsewhere than on or near the coasts, or in rivers and harbours, of the United Kingdom, and to foreign vessels on or near the coasts, or in rivers or harbours, of British Possessions abroad, reported during the same period; with charts and appendices.

PUBLIC RECORDS (WAR OFFICE).

Sixth Schedule, containing a list and particulars of classes of documents exist-

ing, or in ordinary course about to exist, in the office of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office.

INDIA (INDIAN CURRENCY COMMITTEE, 1898).

Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the Indian Currency, 1898.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 26th June, 1899, declaring that for the due and efficient performance of the duties of second assistant to the Chief Crown Solicitor in Ireland, professional or other peculiar qualifications not ordinarily to be acquired in the Civil Service are requisite. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

QUESTION.

THE FINANCE ACT, 1894.

THE EARL OF IDDESLEIGH: My Lords, I beg to ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is the fact that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue have continually before them many questions relating to the Finance Act of 1894, to which they find it almost impossible to give confident answers; and whether the Committee which is to be appointed in the autumn to consider questions concerning the modes of aggregation will be limited to that one subject, or whether it will be at liberty to make recommendations on other matters of minor importance about which doubts may exist, or which may involve possible hardships to individuals, if such recommendations can be made without infringing upon the main principles of the Act. In putting this question, I am very anxious to avoid any possible misunderstanding, and also to explain that my question is not intended to reflect, in the slightest degree, either upon the Finance Act of 1894 or upon the Commissioners of Inland Revenue who are concerned in its administration. I am merely throwing out a suggestion which, in my opinion, seems worthy of consideration. The

Committee which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced his intention of appointing in the autumn to consider questions concerning the modes of aggregation must, of necessity, be a strong one, and it appears to me that the extra duty which I suggest could be well undertaken by that Committee. Although we may not be able to altogether extinguish difficult points of law in these matters, it is desirable to extinguish them as far as possible, and I think the strong Committee which it is proposed to appoint might further the process of simplification, and make a number of recommendations which would meet with general approval. I would therefore ask the question standing in my name.

THE EARL OF BRADFORD: Before the noble Viscount answers the question of the noble Earl, I should like to put another question, of which I have given him private notice. It is, Whether, in the event of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue sending a valuer of their own to value property for Estate Duty purposes, they are entitled to withhold from the person from whom duty is claimed information with respect to the figures of such valuation, and, if so, whether he considers it fair and equitable that they should do so?

***THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (Viscount CROSS):** My Lords, in answer to the noble Earl (the Earl of Iddesleigh), I have to say, on behalf of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that he thinks the noble Earl greatly exaggerates the number of questions which have arisen under the Finance Act of 1894. Perhaps, my Lords, I had better read to you the answer of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to this question. He says:—

"There were, at first, considerable difficulties in the interpretation of the Finance Act of 1894, involving a good deal of friction in administration, and, consequently, a good deal of dissatisfaction with the Estate Duty; but the difficulties are gradually disappearing, and I cannot admit that there exists, at present, sufficient ground for such a general inquiry as is suggested by Lord Iddesleigh. There have been a large number of questions arising under the Finance Act, 1894, and the amending Acts of 1896 and 1898, to which, as Lord Iddesleigh says, no very confident answers could be supplied by the Inland Revenue; but some of these questions have been decided; others are ripe for a judicial decision, and it is hoped that a decision will soon be obtained. But, even if I admitted,

which I do not, a case for a general inquiry, I could not consent to such inquiry being carried out in the manner suggested by Lord Iddesleigh. He asks me to extend the reference to the committee which is to be appointed in the autumn so as to include 'other matters of minor importance about which doubts may exist, or which may involve possible hardships to individuals.' I cannot consent to this for two principal reasons:—(1) I am anxious that the question of aggregation—by which I mean not the principle of aggregation, which is a vital principle of the estate duty, but the precise extent to which, and the manner in which, that principle shall be applied—with which the committee is to be specially appointed to deal, should be fully discussed, and that a decision should be arrived at as soon as possible. It is obvious that 'matters of minor importance' is an elastic phrase, which could be stretched to affect nearly every section of the Finance Act, 1894, and the amending Acts of 1896 and 1898, and it is clear that to extend the inquiry as Lord Iddesleigh suggests would result either in preventing the committee from concentrating their attention on the aggregation question, or would delay their decision on it, or both. (2) I am very doubtful whether a general inquiry such as Lord Iddesleigh suggests could be properly entrusted to, or adequately dealt with by, a committee such as that which is to be appointed to deal with the aggregation question. While, however, I cannot agree that any other of the vexed questions connected with the estate duty should be referred to the particular committee to be appointed in the autumn, I do not wish to return an absolutely *non possumus* answer to the request for some inquiry into other minor questions. If the result of the Departmental Committee on the method of applying the principle of aggregation should be to arrive at a really practical and helpful conclusion on that subject, it would be an encouragement to attempt to deal with other points in the same way. But it must be remembered, first, that the idea of this committee originated from the fact that all parties, whether in favour of or opposed to the principles of the Finance Act, 1894, agreed (in debating the matter in the House of Commons this Session) that the law as contained in the proviso to Section 4 of the Finance Act, 1894, was not in a satisfactory condition; but the task of amending it was found to present very exceptional difficulties; and, secondly, that it must be clearly understood that I could not consent to any such inquiry into any of the main principles of the Act of 1894."

With regard to the other question, namely, whether, in the event of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue sending a valuer of their own to value property for estate purposes, they are entitled to withhold from the person from whom duty is claimed information with respect to the figures of such valuation, if the noble Lord will be good enough to put it down on the Paper I will make inquiries.

MILITIA BALLOT BILL [Lords].
 *THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I rise to call attention to the Law relating to the ballot for the Militia, and to present a Bill. The House will remember that we have had more than one discussion upon the subject. When the question was last raised, I promised the noble Earl, whom I see on the Cross Benches (the Earl of Wemyss), that we would, during the recess, examine and revise the machinery of the Ballot Acts, with the object of having ready to our hand the means of putting the ballot into operation should we ever be driven to resort to it. I guarded myself, at the same time, from undertaking that we should this year, or at any particular moment, endeavour to pass into law a Bill for the introduction of the ballot. Since this pledge was given we have examined the existing law, as well as the Bill submitted to the House last year by the noble Earl, which was, in fact, a reproduction of the clauses and schedules which had been included in the original draft of Lord Cardwell's Army Bill of 1871, but which were dropped in the House of Commons. I am now prepared to lay before the House a Bill dealing with the subject, not, as I have explained, with any idea that such a Bill can be passed into law immediately or in the near future, but because I concur with the noble Earl in thinking that it is desirable that we should realise how we stand in regard to compulsion, and what sort of case can be made out for resorting to it, and, if it were to be resorted to, in what shape it could be most conveniently applied, and with what probable results. It can, at any rate, do no harm to remind the people of this country of their existing obligation to provide, if necessary, by means of some form of compulsory service, a sufficient force for the defence of the United Kingdom. We should never allow ourselves to forget that our military system, so far as the home defence is concerned, contemplates compulsory service as a last resort. The country is giving the opportunity of providing such a force by voluntary means, and, if it is not provided, the law is there to compel us to do so. The fact that the operation of that law is suspended, and has been suspended for many years past, does not alter the case. The obligation is there, and we have only to omit a few

words from the Expiring Laws Continuance Act, or to pass an order in Council suspending the operation of the "Suspension Act," in order to arm the Government of the day with power to set the machinery of the Ballot Act in motion. The question which I think will occur to most of us is this: How near are we to a condition of things in which Ministers would be justified in taking so grave a step? Upon this point there exists, I suspect, a considerable divergence between the noble Earl and myself. I do not mind confessing that I am inclined to hesitate for a very long time on the brink of the stream into which, with characteristic courage, he would like to take a plunge at once. The difference between his attitude and mine is easy to explain. Judging from what he has said upon this subject, and from what he has written, he evidently regards the ballot for the Militia as the panacea for all the ills from which the military body is, in his opinion, suffering. I, on the other hand, am persuaded that for many of these ailments the ballot would be powerless to provide a cure. The noble Earl is fond of dwelling, not only upon the fact that the Militia is, and has been for many years, considerably below its establishment, but upon our difficulties in keeping our Line battalions full, and upon the youth of our recruits and the number of men below the standard whom we are compelled to enlist. His view is, in effect, that if we will but adopt his remedy, all these difficulties will vanish into thin air. I am afraid, however, that I cannot accept the noble Earl's diagnosis. Now, before I go further, let me say a few words as to the present position of the Line. It is quite true that the recruiting returns of the last few months have been comparatively disappointing. We have set ourselves a very hard task to perform; we have at this moment not only to find every year the recruits whom we should require to maintain the Army at its former strength, but the much larger number which we require in order to bring it up to the higher establishment which Parliament has sanctioned. In order to do this, we are attempting to add 25,000 men to the Army, and we are endeavouring to do this at a time when the activity of the labour market is such that every employer of labour, be he engaged in agriculture or manufacture, or in any other industrial capacity, finds the

utmost difficulty in obtaining the men he wants. It must, moreover, not be forgotten that the employers of civil labour are able to adjust the inducements which they offer to the exigencies of the moment. We, on the other hand, are unable to adjust our terms, from one month to another, to the varying conditions of the labour market, and we are, therefore, liable to find our inducements, though sufficient at one moment, become insufficient at another, to attract to the service the men whom we want. It may be as well that I should state to the House exactly how we are situated with regard to recruiting for the regular Army. We are endeavouring, as I have said, to increase the Army by 25,000 men, and of these we had, by the beginning of the year, succeeded in obtaining 12,000; 5,000 of these, it is true, were obtained from the Army Reserve, but the Army Reserve, I am glad to say, at this moment, includes considerably more than the 80,000 which has always been considered the full normal strength. Upon the whole, then, the progress which we had made by the beginning of the year was by no means unsatisfactory. During the last few months, however, the supply of recruits has flagged considerably. The number of recruits whom we have been taking has indeed been well up to the level of former years, and sufficient to keep the Army up to its old establishment, but at this moment we are making little or no progress in bringing about that augmentation of the strength of the Army which we had hoped to effect within three years from the time when it was sanctioned by Parliament. While, however, I insist upon the fact that the present state of things is not so bad as it is sometimes said to be, I frankly admit that I regard it with some misgiving, and I am convinced that we cannot afford to relax the efforts we have made and are making to render the service as attractive as possible to the class from which we draw our recruits. The question, however, which we have to consider is whether the introduction of the ballot for the Militia would be likely to help us. I will not say that it would not help us at all, but I doubt extremely whether it would help us much. The Militia gives to the Line every year some 14,000 recruits. If the Militia were stronger—if it were to number, say, 200,000 men instead of 100,000 men, it might possibly give us

more, but I doubt extremely whether it would be worth our while to maintain 100 additional battalions of Militia merely upon the chance that they would yield a proportionate number of recruits for the Line. Then, again, it might be contended that we should rely to a greater extent than at present upon the Militia, and to a less degree upon the Line, for the protection of these islands. That sounds a very simple proposition, but it requires a good deal of scrutiny. A wholesale substitution of Militia for Line battalions would be a serious matter, and even if such a substitution was unobjectionable upon other grounds, it would have one very inconvenient result, to which I must call attention. It would follow from such a substitution that we should have fewer Line battalions at home, and a certain number of our battalions abroad would consequently find themselves deprived of the units upon which they at present rely for their drafts and reliefs. That would be a very serious thing. Our present military system is based upon the linking of our Line battalions at home and abroad. If we wipe off the slate a certain number of the battalions now at home, or which would, under ordinary conditions, be at home, we should be obliged to substitute for them some other agency for keeping up, and from time to time relieving, the battalions abroad. We have no such agency at present, and it would have to be called into existence. I will not labour this point, but I will say this, that the idea of getting rid of a portion of the Army of the Line, and substituting for it Militia battalions, would lead to a complete recasting of our present military system, and to the abandonment of principles upon which we have been acting for many years past. It comes, then, to this, that a resort to the ballot would be likely to help us mainly for the much more limited purpose of keeping the Militia itself full. Now, the Militia has been constantly below its establishment for many years past. That deficit has varied from 10,000 to 30,000 men during the last twenty years. It stands at present at about 20,000. I am sorry that it should be so. We are sparing no pains to render the force more attractive, and I trust we shall succeed; but, I will say at once, to resort to compulsion for the sake of adding 20,000 or 30,000 men to the strength of the Militia would, to my mind, be alto-
gether out of the question. Apart, however, from the objections to introducing compulsory service for the sake of so small an accession of strength to the Army, there is this further difficulty to be considered. It has never, up to the present time, been found possible to distribute the establishment of the Militia among the different parts of the United Kingdom strictly in accordance with the distribution of the population. In other words, it has not been distributed under our voluntary system as it would be distributed if we had to enforce the ballot. We have been content with the distribution imposed upon us by local conditions—a distribution which diverges widely from that which would result from an apportionment based strictly upon population. Resort to the ballot and to quotas arrived at by a proportionate distribution would, therefore, give us a number of men whom we should not be able to include in our existing cadres, unless we were prepared to set aside altogether an obligation, which I believe to be a legal obligation, and which, whether it is a legal obligation or not, we should always recognise as binding upon us—the obligation, I mean, to employ men raised in the county in the territorial regiment with which the county is connected. I should certainly not be prepared to recommend that a recruit raised by compulsion, let us say, in the County of Lancashire, should be required to serve in the Cornwall Regiment. If, therefore, we were to demand from Lancashire the number of additional men for which the county was strictly liable, it might happen that there would be no room for them in the county regiments. On the other hand, a similar demand for the quota for which it was strictly liable might in another county not give us enough men to bring the county regiment up to its full strength, so that we might find ourselves, on the one hand, with a battalion still falling short by 200 or 300 of its proper strength, and, on the other hand, with a number of surplus men outside of any existing cadres and for whom a brand-new organisation would have to be provided. I have no doubt the noble Earl will say that if we give him the ballot he would like to have, not 20,000, but 100,000 or 200,000 more men than we have at present, and that there will be no difficulty in finding cadres in which to put them. Well, I find that every

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Militiaman costs this country £15 a year, so that 100,000 additional Militiamen would mean an annual addition to our Estimates of £1,500,000. That is a very large sum of money—a sum the expenditure of which would enable us to improve very greatly the terms which we now offer to the Line. It does not therefore follow that the transaction would be entirely advantageous, and we should have to examine it in all its bearings very carefully before we accepted it. It seems to me, therefore, that no sufficient case is made out for the ballot, either as a means of keeping the Line full, or as a means of making good the present difference between the strength and the establishment of the Militia, or, so long as there is a reasonable prospect of keeping our Line battalions full, for the purpose of adding a large number of men to the approved strength of the Militia. It does not, however, follow that because this is so we should dismiss from our minds the possibility of our having under wholly different circumstances to fall back upon compulsion. There are, it seems to me, two contingencies in which a resort to the ballot might be desirable. There might, in the first place, be a complete failure of the voluntary system both in regard to the Line and to the Militia—such a failure as would justify us in an entire reconsideration of the present organisation of our Army. In such a case we might have to be content with a smaller foreign service Army, differently organised and recruited under wholly different terms as to pay and length of service, and we should have to rely more than we do at present upon native troops for garrison duty in our remoter stations. Such a change would give us fewer units to maintain abroad, and would relieve us from the necessity of maintaining at home units to feed them. We might in such a case find it possible to depend more than we do at present upon the Militia for home defence, and possibly for service in some stations which, though beyond the limits of the United Kingdom, are yet within reasonable proximity to these islands, and offer climatic conditions resembling those to which we are used in this country. But I do not admit that we have yet arrived at such a pass, and we are certainly not prepared to throw the whole of our existing organisation into the melting pot merely because the Militia is below its strength and the recruiting

returns of the last four months have been disappointing. There is, however, another contingency in which a more numerous Militia would distinctly add to our strength. It might become necessary for us to provide for the safety of these islands during a very severe and protracted crisis, during which there had been a serious strain upon our military forces, and after we had exhausted all other means of keeping them up to the necessary strength. For an emergency of this kind it does not seem to me unreasonable that we should provide, however remote we may take it to be. This is the kind of emergency which I have always contemplated in these discussions. I draw a great distinction between such an emergency and the kind of emergency which the noble Earl on the cross benches has more often imagined. I mean the emergency which would arise supposing this country were suddenly, and without notice, to be attacked from beyond the seas. For such an emergency I need not say that a sudden resort to the ballot would not in any way help us; however efficacious our machinery and however promptly it were to be set in motion, it could only have the effect of supplying us with a great mass of raw material which it would take many months to organise and train.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: May I explain?

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I know what the noble Earl means. To provide beforehand for such an emergency whenever it might arise we should have to enforce the ballot at once, and to keep it constantly in force even in time of the profoundest peace.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Hear, hear.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I am glad I have correctly interpreted the wish of the noble Earl. I gathered that that was what the noble Earl would desire, for he stated last year in the House that if the present law affecting the Militia ballot was not put into force it was worthless for an emergency, because "when an emergency occurs you want to meet it with your ranks full." It is clear, therefore, that, in the noble Earl's view, the law would have to be put into force before the emergency had

arisen. I confess, however, that I am extremely doubtful whether that is a proposal which any Government would have the courage to make, unless it was clear that we were within a measurable distance of the apprehended danger. Resort to compulsion in any form at a time of profound peace would, in my opinion, be out of the question, except in the face of such a complete breakdown of all our military arrangements as I referred to just now. But for the other kind of emergency, for a protracted struggle, and after it had become clear that we had exhausted, or were likely to come to the end of our resources of voluntary enlistment, the ballot would provide a most valuable reserve of power, and I have no doubt we should appeal to it. If that be so, we may well ask ourselves in what manner we should, when the time came, make use of the resources which it would place at our disposal. The Bill which I have to ask you to read a first time is an attempt to answer the question. I can perhaps best explain our intentions by giving you a sketch in outline of the procedure which would be followed under the existing law, with such modifications as seem to us desirable, in order to adopt it to existing conditions. And let me here say that I am told by our legal advisers that the existing law is, upon the whole, "fairly simple, intelligible, and workable," and that, with a few alterations, which I can describe, it could be made to provide machinery appropriate for our purpose. The total number of men to be raised would have, as now, to be decided by the Government of the day, upon the recommendation of its military advisers. Then we have to consider to what local authority we should entrust the duty of seeing that this number was forthcoming. Under the Bill of 1871, which the noble Earl reintroduced last year, the agency to be employed was that of the justices of the peace. I have come to the conclusion that it will be better to rely, as under the existing law, upon the lords lieutenant and their deputies. The functions of justices of the peace are now purely judicial, and I do not think it would be desirable to impose upon them administrative duties in connection with the enforcement of the ballot. The areas with which we should have to deal would be, as now, the counties and subdivisions of counties. The latter would correspond with the superintendent registrars'

districts, and these could, if necessary, be subdivided into subdistricts probably corresponding with parishes. The machinery which we should employ for preparing and revising the lists would be that of the census, the necessary forms being prepared in the registrar-general's office after consultation with the superintendent registrars. Within these districts we should employ the overseers as enumerating officers. They would have to prepare and revise annually their lists, in which all men between the statutory ages of eighteen and thirty-five would be returned in classes corresponding with their age last birthday. A difficulty arises as to the manner in which, when the quota for the county has been laid down, credit should be given to it for the number of Militiamen who have already been raised within it by voluntary enlistment. Should we first credit the county with the number of men whom it has produced, and then divide the balance between the districts according to their population, or should we divide the whole number, without deduction, proportionately amongst the districts, and then credit each district with the number which it has already provided? The latter system is that which now prevails; the former is that of the Bill of 1871 which was adopted by the noble Earl last year, and it seems to me for several reasons to be the better of the two. The existing law affords, no doubt, a more just distribution as between one subdivision and another, because each subdivision would escape liability exactly in proportion as it had itself contributed to the strength of the force. I doubt, however, whether in practice the arrangement would work well. There would, I suspect, be considerable difficulty in ascertaining the subdivision to which each Militiaman ought properly to be credited. The plan is, moreover, open to this objection, that, owing to the comparative smallness of the numbers to be raised in each area (a number of which in many cases the subdivision would probably fall short by only a very few men), there would be a considerable inducement to buy recruits with the object of relieving the locality from the burden of the ballot. It is needless to point out that the practice of giving bounties of this sort would have a very prejudicial effect upon voluntary recruiting. Let me take an imaginary case in

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illustration of my meaning. I will assume that a given county is liable for 2,000 men. It has already 1,500 men serving in its Militia battalions. It has, therefore, to provide 500 additional men. This number would be divided amongst the districts within the county in proportion to the population of each district, and each district would have to find its share of the deficit by means of the ballot. Then we come to the difficult question of exemption. A schedule of the proposed exemptions is attached to the Bill. I propose to exempt efficient Volunteers, but it would be necessary, if that were done, to restrict the establishment of the Volunteer battalions, in order to prevent an indiscriminate influx of men at a time when the introduction of the ballot might be apprehended. The exemption of the Volunteers from the operation of the ballot would, as the noble Earl has pointed out, give us an opportunity of insisting that the degree of efficiency exhibited by the force should be amply sufficient. In the Bill of 1871 each county was allowed to count its Volunteers as well as its Militia towards the quota for which it was liable. I do not regard this proposal with favour. The fact that an individual has become an efficient Volunteer may well be regarded as a good reason for exempting him personally, but I do not see why it should diminish the liability of his neighbours. The other exemptions mentioned in the schedule are taken from the Bill of 1871, and are a fair basis for discussion. Then there is the question of substitutes. Substitutes are permitted under the existing law, and, except in the case of the old local Militia, which was not liable for service beyond the limits of the county, there has never, I believe, been such a thing as compulsory service without substitutes. Now the Bill of 1871 prohibited substitutes, but then a failure to serve was only punishable by fine, so that every well-to-do man was able to escape compulsory service by producing a £10 note. I am strongly under the impression that in the present condition of public feeling substitutes would not be tolerated. I think it may fairly be argued that at the present time liability to serve within the United Kingdom would not be a more onerous liability than compulsory service within the limits of the county for which the old local Militia were liable, in the case of which, as I have already said,

substitutes were not allowed. Under the Bill any person chosen by ballot who refuses to serve may be arrested and compelled to serve for five years from the time of his arrest, and be treated as a deserter if he afterwards absconds. The other exemptions are substantially those of the 1871 Bill, and include every Member of either House of Parliament, every officer in Her Majesty's forces, every officer on the half-pay of the Navy, Army, or Marines, every non-commissioned officer or man serving in Her Majesty's forces other than the Yeomanry or Volunteers, every efficient non-commissioned officer or man serving in the Yeomanry or Volunteers, every member of any police force, every seaman or seafaring man, every person in holy orders, every minister of religion, every duly qualified medical practitioner. As to the classes to which liability to submit to the ballot would attach we have accepted the classification proposed in the Bill of 1871. It is as follows: (1) Unmarried men above 18 years, and not more than 25 years of age. (2) Married men, above 18 and not more than 30 years of age, having a wife living, but no child. Unmarried men, above 25, but not more than 30 years of age. (3) All men liable to be balloted, and not included in the foregoing classes. I have given your Lordships a brief outline of the Bill, and of the manner in which it would work. It would not make any fundamental alteration in the existing law, but it would bring the law more into accord with present conditions. We believe that this could be done without much difficulty. But we do not render it, nor do we wish to render it, easier for the Government of the day to resort to compulsion. I confess frankly that I share the aversion with which compulsion is, I believe, regarded by the great majority of our fellow-countrymen, and I would on no account have recourse to compulsion in any shape until experience had shown that there was no other way of providing for the safety of the country. My own anticipation is that the greater the peril to which the Empire is exposed the greater will be the number in which the men of this country will flock to our standards, and I, at any rate, would be no party to an attempt to convert the constitutional force which we have till now recruited by voluntary means into a conscript Army, until we are absolutely

driven to do so. But I may be wrong as to this, and something will be gained if we can arrive at an understanding as to the proper mode of dealing with compulsory service should we ever find ourselves face to face with it. This Bill is an attempt to show how in such an event, which I regard as not very probable, we might set to work. I now beg to present a Bill to amend the law relating to the ballot for the Militia.

A Bill to amend the law relating to the ballot for the Militia in England and Wales, presented by the Marquess of Lansdowne.

Moved—

“That the Bill be now read 1^o.”

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: As my noble friend has referred to me, perhaps your Lordships will allow me to say a very few words. The noble Marquess stated, at the outset of his remarks, that our military system rested upon compulsion for home defence. That is a position which I have always ventured to take up, and I am glad that the Secretary of State for War has at last thought it necessary to deal with this question. I have had a motion upon the Paper of your Lordships' House for some months, and as this motion will explain all that I ask for at the present time and the views which I hold on this question, I will take the liberty of reading it to your Lordships. It is as follows :—

“To move to resolve, that inasmuch as the Secretary of State for War has stated in his place in Parliament that the retention of the power of enforcing service in the Militia is necessary in view of possible national emergencies, while he has at the same time said that the present Militia Ballot Law is antiquated and requires revision, this House is of opinion that, looking at recent experiences, and to the possibilities of the future, the law in question should be forthwith amended and brought up to date.”

I have not brought this Resolution before your Lordships because, more than three months ago, the noble Marquess confidentially informed me that he was going to bring in a Bill for the very purpose I had in view in framing the Resolution. I now take the opportunity of withdrawing my motion, for its contents are practically embodied in the Bill which the noble Marquess has just introduced.

The Marquess of Lansdowne.

***LORD MONKS WELL :** My Lords, I should like to say a few words, not immediately on the subject of the Bill introduced by the noble Marquess, but on a matter which the noble Marquess dealt with at some length—namely, the subject of recruiting. I find it almost impossible to tell, from the Return of Recruiting which has been laid before Parliament, what percentage of men left the Army with characters below good. It would seem that about 19,000 left the colours with characters that were good, or better than good, and that there were about 40,000 recruits last year. I do not think that anything like 20,000 men would have left the Army with characters less than good, for we must deduct those who leave on account of illness and with too short service to be ranked as good, and the average number of recruits for the last few years has been less than 40,000. This is a very important matter, because if you can show the public that the characters of men who leave the Army are, on the whole, better than the average character of the artisan or working man, you go a very long way towards removing the objection which exists in many quarters to joining the Army. I think it is rather strange that in the Recruiting Returns no mention is made of the very great and beneficial alteration which has taken place of late in the practice of recruiting. Up to about two years ago it was the practice of commanding officers almost entirely to disregard, except in the case of certain favoured corps, the War Office Order to the effect that recruiting should be confined to persons of good character. Latterly, the question has come very prominently forward, and commanding officers have insisted upon the Order being observed. At first there was very great difficulty in getting officers to obey the order, because they thought, very naturally, that, as there was a difficulty in getting recruits, even where recruiting was not confined to men of good character, recruiting would fall off very considerably if they insisted upon confining it to persons of good character. Experience, however, has shown that that view is an absolutely mistaken one. Where good character has been insisted upon, it has been found by commanding officers that in the long run the number of recruits has increased. I think this is a very important consideration indeed, especially in view of the statement of the

noble Marquess that he is not satisfied with the extent to which recruiting is going on at the present moment. It is shown in the returns that the great majority of the men who have left the Colours with good characters have found some sort of employment; but, nevertheless, the Inspector-General is not satisfied with the result. He says:

"The employment secured is not of a particularly remunerative character, and not of a kind to induce respectable young men to join the Army. I have over and over again endeavoured to impress on the noble Marquess that the only remedy for the difficulty in getting recruits is to provide such an education for the soldier, both technical and otherwise, as will make him, when he leaves the ranks, not less qualified than he now is to obtain employment, and more qualified to do so than the average mechanic and labouring man."

I have not brought the question of the technical education of the soldier specifically before the House this session, because I understood the noble Marquess to say that the matter was receiving the serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government. I hope, before the session ends, the noble Marquess will be able to inform us what steps are being taken in the direction of providing such technical education for the soldier as may, of course, be compatible with his military duties, and enable him to compete on fair terms with, and, I hope, on terms which will place him in a better position than, the average mechanic and labourer in this country.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I confess that there would be some difficulty in establishing a comparison worth anything between the character of the private soldier and the character of the artisan, for I do not know how the character of the artisan could be got at. I quite agree, however, with the noble Lord in the importance he attaches to getting men of good character into the Army, and helping them to maintain their good character while serving. With regard to the possibility of giving the soldier, while serving, some kind of technical education which would stand him in good stead when he has left the Colours, something has been done, although, perhaps, not very much, in that direction. The difficulty which meets us is this, that so much of the soldier's time is occupied in instruction in his profession, that the men themselves might resent further inroads

on their time. The subject is one full of difficulty, but I am quite disposed to agree with the noble Lord in the principle that the better we can equip the soldier for civil employment, the more likely we are to attract into the Army the class of men we want.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 1^a accordingly, and to be printed. (No. 159).

OYSTERS BILL.

*LORD HARRIS: Since the Second Reading of this Bill, various considerations have been brought to the notice of the President of the Local Government Board by persons interested in the cultivation of oysters, and also by the authorities concerned; and, in view of these considerations, the right hon. Gentleman thinks it would be wiser, and more likely to lead to justice being done, if the Bill were referred to a Select Committee.

Moved, that the Order of the 18th of May last, committing the Bill to a Committee of the Whole House, be discharged; and that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee (*The Lord Harris*); agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

The Lords following were named of the Committee:

M. Abercorn (*D. Abercorn*),
L. Harris,
L. Wenlock,
L. Tweedmouth,
L. Heneage.

The Committee to meet on Tuesday, the 18th instant, at Eleven o'clock, and to appoint their own Chairman.

LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to, together with a consequential Amendment to the Bill; Commons consequential Amendment considered (on motion) and agreed to.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN) BILL [Lords].

Read 3^a (according to Order); Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

**SUMMARY JURISDICTION ACT (1879)
AMENDMENT BILL.**

Read 3^a (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Six of the clock, to Monday next, Eleven of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 7th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW, &c.**

Ordered, that the Standing Committee on Law, &c., have leave to sit this day during the sitting of the House.—(Sir James Fergusson.)

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [Lords].

Standing Orders applicable thereto complied with.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.—

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [Lords].**TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [Lords].**

Ordered, that the Bills be read a second time on Monday next.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

Standing Orders not previously inquired into not complied with.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are

applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz.—

PORTSMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Ordered, that the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

BELFAST WATER BILL.**GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY BILL.****LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY BILL.****SCUNTHORPE URBAN DISTRICT GAS AND WATER BILL.**

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

GREAT YARMOUTH PIER BILL [Lords].

(Queen's consent signified); read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH (CARDIFF) BILL [Lords].**BRIGHTON MARINE PALACE AND PIER BILL [Lords].****GREAT GRIMSBY STREET TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].**

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.**ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL [Lords].****ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 13) BILL [Lords].**

Read a second time, and committed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP L).

Sir WILLIAM HOULDsworth reported from the Committee on Group L of

Private Bills, that for the convenience of the Committee, they had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL.

Petition from Bradford, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petition from Bradford, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND ACT, 1845).

Petition from Urquhart, for alteration of law : to lie upon the Table.

REGULATION OF RAILWAYS BILL.

Petitions in favour ; from Selby ; and, Normanton ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Everton, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

SHIPPING CASUALTIES (1897-8).

Copy presented, of Abstract of the Returns of Shipping Casualties which occurred on or near the Coasts, or in Rivers and Harbours, of the United Kingdom from the 1st July, 1897, to 30th June, 1898 ; and of the Returns of Shipping Casualties to British Vessels elsewhere than on or near the Coasts, or in Rivers and Harbours of the United Kingdom, and to Foreign Vessels on or near the Coasts, or in Rivers and Harbours of British Possessions Abroad, &c., with Charts and Appendices [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

MASTERS, MATES, ENGINEERS (SUSPENSION, &c., OF CERTIFICATES).

Return presented relative thereto [ordered 19th May ; Mr. Gibson Bowles] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 267.]

ORDNANCE SURVEY.

Copy presented of Report of the Progress of the Ordnance Survey to the 31st March, 1899 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

DOGS REGULATION (IRELAND) ACT, 1865.

Account presented of the Receipts and Expenditure under the Act for the year 1898 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 268.]

FINES, &c. (IRELAND).

Copy presented of Abstract of Accounts of Fines accounted for by the Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks for 1897 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 269.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1898.

Copy presented of Regulations, under the Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, as to issue of County Stock [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (INDIAN CURRENCY COMMITTEE, 1898).

Copy presented of Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the Indian Currency [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (CONTRACTS).

Return ordered, "of all Contracts made in the United Kingdom for manufactured Articles by the several Government Departments, either with contractors outside the United Kingdom or with contractors or agents in the United Kingdom who obtain the Articles from Abroad (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 382, of Session 1897).—(Mr. Logan.)

LAND REGISTRY.

Return ordered, "of the work done in the Land Registry under the various Acts hereinafter mentioned, namely :—

1. Under the Land Transfer Act, 1875 (Lord Cairns' Act) :—

(a) The number, value, and acreage (where known) of estates the titles to which were annually registered, on first registration, from the 1st day of January, 1895

to the 31st day of December, 1898, showing the number of estates registered with absolute, qualified, and possessory title, and leaseholds; and also the number of estates registered under The Small Holdings Act, 1892.

- (b) The total number of separate titles on the register on the 31st day of December, 1898, (i.) by first registration, (ii.) by sub-division of estates already registered, and (iii.) by transfer from the 1862 register.

2. Under The Land Registry Act, 1862 (Lord Westbury's Act):—

- (a) The total number, value, and acreage (where known) of estates the titles to which were registered on first registration.
- (b) The total number of separate titles on the register on the 31st day of December, 1898 (i.) by first registration, and (ii.) by sub-division of estates already registered;
- (c) The total number of separate titles which had been removed from the register on the 31st day of December, 1898, otherwise than by transfer to the 1875 register.

3. Under both the Acts of 1875 and 1862:—

- (a) The total number of separate titles on the register on the 31st day of December, 1898;
- (b) The total number of transactions annually registered from the 1st day of January, 1895, to the 31st day of December, 1898, showing the numbers of (i.) first registrations under the Act of 1875, (ii.) conveyances, transfers, and transmissions of land, (iii.) mortgages, charges, further charges, and transfers of mortgages and charges, (iv.) reconveyances of mortgages and cessation of charges, (v.) leases and surrenders of leases, (vi.) miscellaneous.

4. Under the Mortgage Debenture Acts, 1865 and 1870, and the Improvement of Land Act, 1864:—

A statement, so far as may be practicable, of the nature and amount

of the work done under these Acts from the 1st day of January, 1895, to the 31st day of December, 1898.

5. Under the Land Charges Registration and Searches Act, 1888:—

The number of registrations, official searches, and ordinary searches annually made from the 1st day of January, 1895, to the 31st day of December, 1898.

6. Under the Middlesex Registry Act, 1708, and the Land Registry (Middlesex Deeds) Act, 1891.

The number of registrations and searches annually made from the 1st day of January, 1895, to the 31st day of December, 1898.

And showing the amount of fees received each year, and the amount of salaries and expenses each year in the Land Registry from the 1st day of April, 1895, to the 31st day of March, 1899, distinguishing with respect to the periods since the Land Transfer Act, 1897, came into operation, for the purposes of Section 22 of that Act, the fees received and salaries and expenses paid under the Land Transfer Acts, and the other Acts above referred to (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 463, of Session 1895).—(Mr. H. D. Greene.)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to :

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BILL.

Without Amendment.

AIR AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

LEITH HARBOUR AND DOCKS BILL.

With Amendments.

That they have agreed to :

Amendments to—

COBHAM GAS BILL [Lords].

STRETFORD GAS BILL [Lords].

Without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make new provisions with

regard to the constitution and to change the name of the company of proprietors of the Rochdale Canal ; to fix and regulate the capital and borrowing powers of the company ; to amend the Acts relating to and confer further powers on the company ; and for other purposes." [Rochdale Canal Bill [Lords].

And also, a Bill, intituled, " An Act to confer further powers upon the London and South-Western Railway Company, to authorise them to execute further works to acquire additional lands, and to raise further money ; and for other purposes." [London and South-Western Railway Bill [Lords].

ROCHDALE CANAL BILL [Lords].

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Read the first time, and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection ; that they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure :—Mr. Evelyn Cecil, Mr. William Jones, Mr. Arthur Morton, Sir Albert Rollit, and Mr. Talbot ; and had appointed in substitution : Mr. Butcher, Sir George Fardell, Mr. Gedge, Mr. Mount, and Captain Norton.

Mr. HALSEY further reported from the Committee ; that they had added to the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Improvement of Land Bill :—Commander Bethell, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Channing, Dr. Clark, Mr. Colston, Mr. Wingfield-Digby, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Gold, Mr. Seale-Hayne, Mr. Jeffreys, Mr. Heywood Johnstone, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, Mr. Herbert Lewis, Mr. Walter Long, and Major Rasch.

Mr. HALSEY further reported from the Committee ; that they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures :—Mr. Galloway and Mr. Gedge ; and had appointed in substitution : Sir Edward Hill and Sir James Rankin.

Mr. HALSEY further reported from the Committee ; that they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Bill :—Mr. Archdale, Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. Gerald Balfour, Mr. J. H. M. Campbell, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Doogan, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. Molloy, Mr. Arthur Moore, Mr. William Moore, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. John Redmond, and Colonel Saunderson.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

STANDING COMMITTEES (CHAIR-MEN'S PANEL).

Mr. ARTHUR O'CONNOR reported from the Chairmen's Panel : that they had appointed Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating to Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in the place of Mr. John Edward Ellis, in respect of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Bill ; and that they had appointed Sir James Ferguson to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating to Law, and Courts of Justice and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Improvement of Land Bill.

Report to lie upon the Table.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) [SALARIES, &c.]

Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of any salaries, remuneration and expenses that may become payable under any Act of the present Session for establishing a Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction in Ireland (Queen's Recommendation signified), upon Monday next.—(Mr. Gerald Balfour.)

COTTAGE HOMES BILL.

Reported, without Amendment, from the Select Committee, with Second Special Report and Minutes of Evidence.

Report and Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 271.]

QUESTIONS.

BELLEVILLE BOILER ACCIDENTS.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he will grant a return showing the number of fatal and other accidents resulting from the use of Belleville boilers in the Royal Navy.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): The only serious accident known, beside that on board the "Terrible," when one stoker was killed and three suffered from burns, took place on board the "Argonaut" when she was about to leave the contractor's works on the Clyde. On this occasion, in consequence of a bolt being left out of place, a joint of the economizer gave out, and two contractor's men and three stokers were scalded.

STORAGE OF CORDITE NEAR PORTSMOUTH.

ADMIRAL FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether it is the intention of Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to use the new magazines and store houses now in course of building on the land adjoining Priddy's Hard Magazine for the storage of cordite and other high explosives, and what weight of cordite it is proposed to store; whether this decision has been arrived at after careful inquiry and report by a Committee, and, if so, will the names of the Committee be given, and was their report a unanimous one. In view of the near proximity of the magazine to Portsmouth Dockyard, and its certain destruction if a large quantity of cordite should explode at Priddy's Hard, together with heavy loss of life and property in the neighbourhood, was the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief, as also that of the Admiral Superintendent of the Dockyard, asked as to the advisability or otherwise of storing such a high explosive as cordite in its immediate vicinity, and, if so, will the First Lord favour the House with their views, or lay the Committee's Report upon the Table; and in view of the disastrous explosion of the magazine at Toulon recently, and the at present unknown cause of the destruction of the "Maine" at Havana last year, will their Lordships suspend the erection of the cordite magazine for the present,

and consider the advisability of arranging with the War Office for the storage of cordite in one of the useless forts on Portsdown Hill, which could be readily approached by Porchester Creek.

MR. GOSCHEN: It is intended to use the new magazines and storehouses in question for the storage of cordite and other explosives. It would be contrary to the interest of the public service to state what quantities of explosives will or may be stored there. In reply to questions 2 and 3, I need not assure the hon. Member or the House that the decision was arrived at after the most careful and exhaustive inquiry, and the Admiralty itself must assume the entire responsibility. It would be both contrary to precedent and inexpedient to publish the Reports of Committees or individuals who have been consulted on the subject. I should add that the question of the safety of cordite as compared with gunpowder has been fully considered by an important War Office Committee. The facts elicited and the experiments carried out show that cordite is safer to stow, handle, and keep than gunpowder. The quantity of the latter stored inside Portsmouth Harbour in magazines and hulks has been large; it is now much reduced, and will diminish every year. The abolition of the powder hulks, which will ensue on the extension of Priddy's Hard, and the improvements now being made in the magazines, will make the dockyard and environs even safer than at present. Rapid embarkation of explosives for mobilisation necessitates that the sources of supply shall be conveniently situated. No action of the nature proposed in the last part of the question is in contemplation.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): May I ask if, with due regard to public policy, the right hon. Gentleman can state if the amount of cordite stored in this place would be sufficient, if exploded, to blow up the dockyard?

MR. GOSCHEN: I do not think that is a question which could be ascertained, nor is it one on which it is desirable to have a public discussion. The Admiralty is responsible in this most important matter, and every attention will be given to it. I must ask the House to rely on the administration of the Admiralty.

ADMIRAL FIELD : I beg to give notice that I will call attention to this matter in Committee of Supply on the Admiralty Vote.

CORK HARBOUR.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract) : On behalf of the hon. Member for West Hull I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what is the length of the pier in Cork Harbour to the drill ground of the training ship, what did it cost, and what is the acreage, rent, and tenure of the drill ground ; and whether other land could have been obtained that could have been approached by the ordinary pier, and so render the new pier unnecessary.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) : The length of the pier is 1,913 feet. The cost will probably amount to about £5,700. The area of the drill ground and recreation field is 8½ acres ; it is held at a rental of £40 per annum for twenty-one years from 1896. No other suitable site could be obtained.

SCOTTISH VOLUNTEERS—PROPOSED REVIEW.

MR. WEIR : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the Government will consider the expediency of holding a review of Scottish Volunteer Regiments in Edinburgh, or at some other suitable place in Scotland.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR** (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) : There is no knowledge at the War Office of any general desire among the Scottish Volunteers to be reviewed, and there is no present intention of holding such a review.

RIFLE RANGES.

COLONEL WYNDHAM MURRAY (Bath) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, with regard to the fact that during the years since the Lee-Metford rifle has been in issue to troops sixty-four ranges held by the War Department at home and abroad for Regular troops and Militia have been closed, and only forty suitable for the range of that rifle constructed or approved, will he state what steps the War Department are taking to make good this deficiency ; whether of those held by Yeomanry and

Volunteer corps 508 ranges have been closed and only 167 constructed or approved ; and whether Volunteer corps are taking steps to combine to pay the cost of fresh ranges, as proposed by the Secretary of State for War.

***MR. WYNDHAM** : The figures given in the question are correct, except that the number of ranges which it is intended to construct for Regular troops is forty-one and not forty. Volunteer corps are not taking steps to combine for the purchase of ranges, and they have not been invited to do so. The best sites for such ranges will have to be very carefully selected before negotiations with Volunteers can begin, and the scheme under which all this is to done has not yet received the sanction of Parliament.

FEMALE CLERKS IN THE WAR OFFICE.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether in the reorganisation of the War Office by a committee of experts now in progress the Secretary of State will favourably consider the means of increasing the present female clerks' establishment at the War Office upon similar lines to those adopted by the Postmaster-General, so as to provide employment for the orphan daughters of officers who have fallen in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from the effects of foreign service, and whose families have been left in straitened circumstances.

***MR. WYNDHAM** : The typewriting department of the War Office is now worked entirely by women clerks. The suggestion contained in the hon. Member's question will be considered.

BRITISH SUBJECTS IN BATAVIA.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (York) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether British subjects in Batavia are compelled to serve in the Dutch army for the defence of the island of Java ; whether any nation has a right to impress British subjects for military or naval service of any description ; and whether such service is in conformity with the Foreign Enlistment Act of 1870.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS** (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) :

The question of the liability of British subjects to serve in the militia of the Dutch East India possessions has arisen on several occasions, and it has been decided that, in the absence of treaty stipulations to the contrary, they are liable, unless it can be shown that foreigners of any other nationality are relieved from that obligation. Within the limitations explained in the answer to the first paragraph of the question, any nation has a right to call upon resident foreigners for service. Such service by a British subject would not be, on his part, a violation of the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act.

THE MURDER OF A BRITISH MISSIONARY IN CHINA.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Wick Burghs, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in consequence of the murder in China of the Rev. Mr. Fleming, a formal demand was made for the dismissal or recall of the Governor of Kweichau; and whether Her Majesty's Government still insist on that demand.

MR. BRODRICK: In reply to a question on this subject three days ago I stated that as two of the murderers had been executed, the Yamén had been informed that an extension of time would be granted for the apprehension of the head man.

RUSSIAN RAILWAYS IN PERSIA.

SIR JOHN LENG: On behalf of the hon. Member for Wick Burghs I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government have any information that Russia mediates frustrating the development of British trade in Persia by the construction of a railway from Duschak, on the Trans-Siberian Railway, to Meshed, whither English goods at present travel *via* Seistan.

*MR. BRODRICK: The answer is in the negative.

LUDLOW VACCINATION CASE.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of Thomas H. Rich, who was summoned before the Ludlow Bench of Magistrates

on 12th June under the Vaccination Acts, and pleaded in defence that the Public Vaccinator had not given notice of his visit in accordance with Article 1, Section 3, of the Vaccination Act of 1898, but that the said Public Vaccinator attempted to vaccinate the child by force against the wish of the mother; whether he will inform the Public Vaccinator of Craven Arms that he has exceeded his duty in attempting to vaccinate against the wish of the parent and without giving the twenty-four hours' statutory notice; and will he cause the fine and costs to be returned to the said Thomas H. Rich.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): According to my information, the defendant was charged with having neglected to get his child vaccinated; he admitted the fact, and also admitted that he had received notice requiring vaccination from the Public Vaccinator. The Public Vaccinator emphatically denies that he attempted to vaccinate the child by force against the parent's wishes. Under these circumstances I see no reason for any action on my part such as is suggested in the question.

METROPOLITAN STREET TRAFFIC—UNATTENDED VANS.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what are the powers which the police possess and do use in reference to obstructions to traffic caused by vans being left standing unattended on the streets and whether they have any other power than that of summoning offenders, whilst the conviction and award of punishment for such offences at present rests entirely with the magistrates before whom the cases are brought.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Under Section 54 of 2 and 3 Vict. cap. 43 the Metropolitan Police have power to arrest without warrant persons obstructing the roadway in the manner therein prohibited; but it is only in exceptional cases that it is found advisable to adopt this summary mode of procedure. The conviction of an offender and the penalty to be inflicted on him are matters for the court before whom the charge is made.

GENERAL LAURIE: Can the police arrest the vans?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Anyone breaking the law can be arrested summarily.

GENERAL LAURIE: But how about the unattended vans?

[No answer was given.]

LICENSING COMMISSION REPORT.

MR. YOUNG: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the Report of the Royal Commission on the Liquor Licensing Laws, which was laid upon the Table of the House on Tuesday, 4th instant, appeared in the London *Daily News* on Wednesday the 5th; as the Report has not yet been issued to Members of the House or the Commissioners, whether this is a breach of privilege or etiquette; and who is responsible for supplying this particular newspaper with a copy of the Report.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Yes, Sir, I am aware of the fact stated in the first paragraph of the question. I do not know who supplied the information to the newspaper, but I do not understand that any breach of privilege was committed. I am informed that a copy of the Report was lying in the library, during the sitting of the House, on the 4th inst., open to the inspection of any Member.

MR. FLYNN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the premature publication of Reports of this nature is quite common, and that they frequently are to be found in the London papers before Members see them?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise out of the question.

SOUTH AMERICAN CATTLE TRADE.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he can state how many ships in the South American live stock trade have been black listed, and in how many cases the restrictions have been cancelled; and whether he can give the names of the vessels and the reasons why they have been released from the black list.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): Since the 1st

January, 1896, orders prohibiting the conveyance of animals by vessels engaged in the South American trade have been passed in fourteen cases. In five cases, the "Specialist," "Wilhelmina," "Alfalfa," "J. W. Taylor," and "Hindustan," the orders were cancelled during their currency, the further representations received from the owners as to the circumstances in which the losses occurred, and as to the future equipment of the vessels appearing to us to justify this course.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he will state the amount of the sum deducted in each case from the amount payable to the counties of Staffordshire, Essex, and Bristol out of the Local Taxation Grant to provide the £87,000 taken from the grant under the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill.

*MR. LONG: The share of the counties and county borough named in a sum of £87,000 distributed in the proportion of what are known as the "discontinued grants" would amount to £1,815, £1,934 and £679 respectively.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM BUILDINGS.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if he will consider the advisability of making arrangements for the erection of a public clock in some prominent part of the exterior of the new museum buildings at South Kensington, especially in view of the fact that there is no such clock westward from Hyde Park Corner within the four mile radius, and the erection of one at South Kensington would be regarded as a public boon.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. A. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): The matter referred to by my hon. friend shall receive attention.

SOUTHAM VACCINATION PROSECUTION.

MR. LOGAN (Leicestershire, Harborough): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been directed to the report of a vaccination prosecution before the Justices

sitting at Southam, Warwickshire, from which it appears that, although the public vaccinator had himself certified that the child which formed the subject of the prosecution was weak and suffering from rickets, that officer insisted upon his right to vaccinate it, and expressed his intention of disregarding the instructions of the Local Government Board on that point; and if the Local Government Board propose to take any steps to secure respect for their instructions in the district in question.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): My attention has been directed to certain newspaper reports of the case referred to. The facts are as stated as regards the certificate given by the public vaccinator, but it was not a certificate of postponement of vaccination under the Vaccination Acts. Indeed, the public vaccinator is reported to have stated in court that he considered the child a fit subject for vaccination. He absolutely denies having expressed any intention of disregarding the instructions of the Local Government Board. He only claimed the right to use his discretion as to what constituted good health in relation to vaccination, and I see no reason to interfere with this discretion.

POOR LAW TEACHERS.

MR. WILLIAM JONES (Carnarvon, Arfon): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether only 60 out of 172 teachers employed under the Local Government Board are fully trained; if he can state whether the Education Department has refused to inspect the Poor Law schools; and, if so, for what reason; and whether he will endeavour to secure in the future the inspection of Poor Law schools by the Education Department.

MR. CHAPLIN: According to the report of the Poor Law Schools Committee of the 172 teachers in metropolitan Poor Law schools 60 were fully trained and certificated under the Education Department. It should, however, be added that of the remaining 112 teachers 93 held various certificates from the Education Department which would qualify them to act as teachers under that Department. As regards the second and third paragraphs, I have stated to the House, in

reply to a question by the hon. Member for Shoreditch and in the discussion on the vote for the Local Government Board, that I had communicated with the Education Department as to the inspection of Poor Law Schools by inspectors of that Department, so far as the educational work in the schools is concerned. The Education Department, however, felt a difficulty in assenting to this arrangement, unless the inspection of the schools was transferred to them in its entirety, including not only the education given in the schoolroom, but also the boarding and other arrangements. In this I was unable to concur.

LIVERPOOL POST OFFICE.

MR. STEADMAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that police pensioners are about to be employed as hall porters, in the room of allowance postmen, in the new post office at Liverpool; whether the Postmaster-General is aware that these easy positions, being reserved for postmen, enabled many postmen to hold out at work until sixty years of age; whether two ex-police-sergeants about to be appointed to these positions are in receipt of pensions of 35s. and 40s. per week respectively; and whether policemen who receive two-thirds of their pay in pension after twenty-six years' service (making them about forty-eight years of age) are now to be added to soldier pensioners in claiming the easy places in the Post Office formerly held by postmen.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The answer to the first paragraph is "Yes," and to the second "No." The duties of doorkeepers and night patrols are more suited to police constables than to postmen, and it is in contemplation to extend to Liverpool the London system under which a force of police pensioners is employed on such duties. The change, which will effect a considerable reduction of expense, will be carried out gradually. No appointments have yet been made.

MEDICAL TREATMENT OF POSTMEN.

MR. STEADMAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, on what grounds two postmen for many years employed at the Maldon head office and two years

since transferred to a sub-office under Maldon, less than a mile from the head office, whose duties are partially performed in Maldon itself, have been removed from the list of men entitled to receive gratuitous medical treatment from the Departmental medical officer for Maldon.

MR. HANBURY: The names of these two men were removed from the Medical Officer's Capitation List under a misapprehension, and instructions have been given for them to be restored to the list.

DUNDALK POSTMASTERSHIP.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, will he state the name of the gentleman who has been promoted to the postmastership of Dundalk and the name of the office he has been promoted from ; whether he can say if the vacancy created by the removal has been filled up, and by whom ; and how many applications were sent in for this vacancy.

MR. HANBURY: Mr. Robert Swale has been promoted from the Postmastership of Coleraine to that of Dundalk. The vacancy at Coleraine has not yet been filled up. It may be necessary to revise the salary for the incoming Postmaster of Coleraine, and candidates have not yet been invited to apply.

CROLLY BRIDGE POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. T. D. SULLIVAN (Donegal, W.) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, when the promised daily delivery of letters at Crollly Bridge, Bunbeg, county Donegal, will be commenced.

MR. HANBURY: Authority has been given for affording a delivery of letters at Crollly Bridge every week day, and the arrangements will be brought into operation with the least possible delay.

PORT NESS AND THE ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland is aware that a lifeboat is urgently needed at Port of Ness, Island of Lewis ; and, having regard to the fact that the Secretary to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution has announced that his Committee will be prepared to consider the

question of the establishment of a lifeboat station at Port of Ness as soon as the harbour works are complete, will steps be taken to finish the works at an early date.

***THE LORD ADVOCATE** (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) : The Secretary for Scotland had not heard of any application for the establishment of a lifeboat station at the Port of Ness. He would be glad to see the harbour finished, but cannot intervene further than he has done in the dispute that has been going on for some years between the trustees and the contractor.

MR. WEIR: What steps have been taken to bring to an end the dispute between the trustees and the contractors ?

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY:** We have done everything in our power to bring it to an end ; of course, we cannot interfere directly.

SCHOOL INSPECTION IN SCOTLAND.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to a statement on page 6 of the Education Report for the Northern Division of Scotland for 1898, made by one of Her Majesty's inspectors of schools, that he has only been able to get through the work of inspection by giving to it every one of his holidays, will he make arrangements so that this inspector gets his full annual leave of absence this year.

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY:** As I have already stated, the Department is prepared to consider any case in which inadequacy in the staff for the proper discharge of the work of inspection is thoroughly established, and will endeavour to arrange as far as possible that the annual leave of the inspectors be not interfered with ; but no pledge of the nature suggested can be given with regard to any public official.

MR. WEIR: Having regard to the fact that this inspector has sacrificed his holidays in the past, will the right hon. Gentleman see that he at least gets his full leave this year ?

[No answer was given.]

MR. WEIR: I shall call attention to this on the Estimates.

PORTMAHOMACK HARBOUR.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state what amount of local subscription in aid of the improvement of Portmahomack Harbour would be considered by the Secretary for Scotland as sufficient to warrant him in approaching the Treasury for a special grant in aid of the work.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: Since the 12th May the hon. Member has given notice of four questions with reference to the grant of Government money for the improvement of the fishing harbour of Portmahomack, in the Dornoch Firth. The estimated cost of these improvements is £4,500, a sum above the limit of grants under the West Highlands and Islands Works Act. The parish is not a congested one, so the harbour cannot be aided from the funds at the disposal of the Congested Districts Board. A Standing Committee has recently been appointed to inquire into applications from local authorities for Government assistance in constructing harbours. The Treasury have ruled that cases should only be referred to this Committee—first, where the local authority will undertake and be in a position to ensure the permanent maintenance of the harbour; and, secondly, where two-thirds of the whole cost is provided from local or outside sources. When the Secretary for Scotland is satisfied that these two conditions are complied with in the case of Portmahomack Harbour, he will be happy to refer it to the Committee.

SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the fact that on page 9 of the Report of the Congested Districts Board, it is stated that the Board have received applications for new holdings, or for the extension of existing holdings, from the island parts of the counties of Argyll, Inverness, Ross, and Shetland, will he state how many such applications have been received from each county; and whether it has been found possible, up to the present time, to accede to the request of any of the applicants.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that six applications have been received from Argyllshire, three from Ross-shire, twenty-nine from Inverness-shire and one from Shetland. So far the

Board have only been able to help in the case of applications from Inverness-shire.

IRISH BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE.

MR. CAREW (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland if his attention has been directed to the proposed Orders relating to the procedure in the Court of Bankruptcy, Ireland, published in the *Dublin Gazette* of 16th June, 1899; whether he is aware that the Official Liquidator (Ireland) Bill, which was similar to the latter part of Order No. 250, was withdrawn by the late Government in 1893, and that the said Order is an exact copy of one that appeared in the *Dublin Gazette* of 10th August, 1896, which the Lord Chancellor of Ireland declined to sign; what objections were received against the confirmation of that Order, and what were the grounds urged in these objections; and at whose request are the proposed changes now being made, and what grounds have been given for the proposed changes.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. In answer to the second paragraph, the Bill in question, after having been amended in Committee, was either withdrawn by the late Government or dropped. There appears to be some resemblance between one of the clauses in that Bill and the latter part of the Order referred to, inasmuch as under both the official assignees are eligible to be appointed official liquidators. The *Dublin Gazette* was not published on the 10th August, 1896, and no such Order appeared in any copies of the *Gazette* published in August of that year. The *Gazette* of the 16th June, 1899, contains the print of provisional Rules recommended by the Rule recommending authority (which includes all the Judges of the High Court), and before they are made final any public body can submit objections for consideration.

ULSTER ASSIZES.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Solicitor General for Ireland why the winter assize for Ulster has been held in either Belfast or Derry for many years past; and will the City of Armagh again be passed over this year.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. DUNBAR BARTON,

Armagh, Mid.) was understood to reply that he was not responsible in this matter.

IRISH INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Nenagh magistrates recently committed to industrial schools the children of two widows, on the ground that they were destitute, and without visible means of support; will he state by whose orders the children were turned out of the schools, and were afterwards dropped out on the railway platform at Nenagh without anyone to look after them (their mothers having left), and without having a home to go to; were any steps taken beforehand to quash the magistrates' order as illegal, and is there any official machinery for superseding such orders without appeal or resort to legal tribunals; is he aware that the Nenagh justices then a second time committed the children to industrial schools, on the ground that they were found wandering, and not having any house or settled place of abode or proper guardianship or visible means of subsistence; was this commitment an act within the jurisdiction of the justices; if not, was it quashed by any competent tribunal; does the order remain on record as a valid commitment, and by what authority did the Castle officials once more command the managers of the schools of Birr and Galway to turn the children out; is he aware that a lad of eleven years was in consequence deposited for the second time on the platform at Nenagh, having neither a home nor friends to go to, and that the sisters of mercy in charge of the Birr Industrial School refused on the second occasion to turn out the little girls; will he state who is the official responsible for overruling a legal decision; on what powers is he proceeding; and do the Government propose to take any steps in the matter.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): This question appears to refer to the cases of four children, three girls and a boy, who were committed to industrial schools by the magistrates at Nenagh Petty Sessions on the 25th February last, the ground of committal stated in each case being that the child was destitute

and an orphan. The orders of committal were not only contrary to fact, the mothers of the children being alive, but were bad in law, since they were not in accordance with the form prescribed by Statute. The magistrates were afforded an opportunity of amending the Orders, but the Chairman stated it was impossible to amend them so as to bring the cases within the Act of Parliament. In these circumstances I had no alternative but to direct the discharge of the children. This was done by me on the 10th of April. The boy left the school on the 26th of April; he was accompanied by one of the Christian Brothers to Limerick and there handed over to a person to be conveyed to Nenagh. On his arrival at Nenagh he went to his sister, who was in domestic service. On the 29th of April an application was made to the magistrates for his recommitment, as well as for the recommitment of the three girls who, I may observe, were still detained in the industrial school and were not, as a matter of fact, discharged from the school until the 5th of May. On the 6th of May the magistrates recommitted the four children on the ground that they had been found wandering and had no visible means of subsistence. The mothers of these children, who on the occasion of their first committal were described as orphans, disappeared when the order for their discharge was issued on the 10th of April. Having carefully reviewed all the facts of the cases, I was forced to the conclusion that the situation of the children in having on the second occasion been found wandering and without visible means of subsistence was the result of an arrangement deliberately designed to qualify the children for admission to an Industrial School, and did not arise from a natural course of events. I, therefore, again exercised the authority vested in me by the 33rd Section of the Industrial Schools Act of 1868, by ordering the discharge of the children. Neither of the Orders was quashed. One was on the face of it bad and made without jurisdiction, and the other was obviously procured by the contrivance I have mentioned.

MR. T. M. HEALY: What tribunal decided that these Orders were bad in law? On what ground does the right hon. Gentleman presume to exercise the authority of a court of justice?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : The Industrial Schools Act gives the Chief Secretary absolute discretion to discharge children.

MR. T. M. HEALY : But what tribunal decided that the Orders were bad in law ? What tribunal has power except the Court of Queen's Bench ?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : That is not the question. The Chief Secretary has the power.

MR. T. M. HEALY : That is not my point. The magistrates made the Orders, and the right hon. Gentleman has stated that they were bad in law. The right hon. Gentleman is not the law. The only court with power to review the Orders is the Court of Queen's Bench. If the right hon. Gentleman thinks the Orders are bad in law, why does he not direct his Attorney-General to quash them ?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : The Chief Secretary is actually empowered to discharge the children. Of course he acts on the advice of his legal officers.

MR. T. M. HEALY : I ask what tribunal decided that the magistrates' order was bad. I did not ask the right hon. Gentleman whether or not he had power to discharge the children, but by what authority he decided that the decision of two magistrates was bad in law ?

*MR. SPEAKER : The right hon. Gentleman has answered the question.

MR. T. M. HEALY : No, Sir.

*MR. SPEAKER : He has said that no Court overruled the decision of the magistrates, but that he has acted under an Act of Parliament which empowered him to discharge the children.

MR. T. M. HEALY : I will call further attention to this matter. I do not question his discretion to discharge. What I have questioned is his right to describe the Orders as illegal. Is he a new Removable Court ?

MONAGHAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS.

MR. MACALEESE : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the sheriff's account for the County Monaghan

local government elections amounted in the gross to a sum of £1,351 12s. 1d., although certain candidates in several of the divisions received a very small number of votes ; and whether, in view of this expenditure, he can now see his way to devise means by which such contests may be discouraged.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : I believe the cost of the first elections in County Monaghan amounted to the sum stated. It must be borne in mind, however, that there were twenty county council elections and seventy district council elections to be arranged for, and that a considerable portion of the sum mentioned was applied in the purchase of ballot boxes and compartments which will be available for future elections. As regards the second paragraph, I have nothing to add to my reply to the hon. Member's previous question of the 8th June on the same subject.

IRISH INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS CIRCULAR.

MR. MACALEESE : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has he received a copy of a resolution passed by the Monaghan County Council respectfully asking for the withdrawal of a recent circular affecting the usefulness of industrial schools in Ireland ; and if he, giving heed to this and other representations to the same effect, can advise the Lord Lieutenant to withdraw the circular in question.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : I have received a copy of the resolution referred to in the first paragraph. In answer to the second paragraph, I have nothing to add to the replies previously given by me on this subject.

HOLIDAYS OF IRISH POOR LAW OFFICIALS.

MR. YOUNG : (Cavan, E.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board of Ireland propose to make arrangements, by regulation or otherwise, for securing to the Poor Law officials, other than dispensary doctors, similar annual holidays ; and what is now the number of such annual holidays allowed to such doctors.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : The regulations with respect to the duties, etc., of

Union officers are now being revised by the Local Government Board, and the question of annual holidays to Poor Law officials will receive consideration in connection therewith. Under Article 28 of the new Dispensary Regulations an annual vacation not exceeding four weeks is allowed to dispensary medical officers. No similar fixed rule has been hitherto laid down with respect to other Poor Law officials.

RIVER BARROW DRAINAGE.

DR. MACDONNELL (Queen's County, Leix): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he has received a resolution from the Queen's County County Council requesting that a grant should be made from the Imperial Exchequer for the purpose of completing the drainage of the River Barrow; and if it is the intention of the Government to meet the wishes of the Queen's County County Council.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: A copy of the resolution referred to has been received. I am afraid I have nothing to add to my replies to previous questions on the subject of the Barrow drainage, or to the communications already addressed by me to local bodies on the same subject.

IRISH LUNACY GRANT.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can allay the apprehension created in some districts in Ireland that there will be delay or non-payment of the equivalent for the 4s. grant for lunatics in consequence of the new arrangements under the Local Government Act.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: On the 16th June the Bank of Ireland was authorised to pay out of the Local Taxation Account the claims of all the asylums in Ireland in respect of the year ending 31st December, 1898, which had come in by that date audited and certified by the auditors. The claims of four asylums only were outstanding on the 16th June; two of these have since been received and paid; the remaining two will be paid when received.

IRISH TITHE RENT-CHARGE.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland when the Treasury

Memorandum on the Irish Tithe Rent-charge Bill will be circulated.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: This Memorandum is not yet quite ready, but there will be no delay in laying it on the Table.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I wish to ask the First Lord of the Treasury—with reference to what appears to be an official *communiqué* in *The Times* newspaper this morning with regard to the despatch of troops to South Africa—whether he has any statement to make to the House of Commons on the subject.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I am not aware that the statement which appears in *The Times* is a *communiqué*, but I have to say, since the right hon. Gentleman asks me, that no contingency has yet arisen which, in the opinion of the Government, necessitates any material increase in the forces now stationed in South Africa. But, in existing circumstances, we think it is necessary to bring that force up to a proper standard of efficiency and mobility.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It is not with regard to the bringing up of the forces already in South Africa to a certain state of efficiency that I wish to inquire. It is as to this paragraph in an apparently official statement—

"The Commander-in-Chief has been engaged in completing the organisation and composition of the larger force which it will be necessary to despatch to South Africa in the event of the negotiations at present in progress with the Government of the Transvaal proving unsuccessful."

It is with regard to that—a new declaration of Government policy—that I wish to ask.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir, there is no declaration of policy in that paragraph. But I conceive that the War Office would be extraordinarily wanting in the most obvious duties if they were not prepared for any emergency, however undesirable and however unlikely, which could possibly arise.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northamptonshire): May I ask whether the officers stated in this *communiqué* to be going out to South Africa to organise the forces are

to go into the Cape Colony and into Natal to organise them; and, if so, is it with the consent of the Ministers of those colonies?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know.

COMMANDER BETHELL (Yorkshire, Holderness): Can my right hon. friend inform the House in what circumstances these special officers are likely to be used, and against what enemies of the Queen?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir. My hon. and gallant friend is quite as much of a prophet as I am, and it would require the gift of prophecy to predict all these contingencies.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when it is proposed to resume consideration of the Scottish Votes in Committee of Supply.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot at present make any statement about Supply. I have promised, as regards next Friday to give an answer to the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, but I can say no more at present.

MR. DILLON: May I ask with reference to the motion for devoting three additional days to Supply, whether the Government will give one of those days to the consideration of the Irish Votes.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have nothing to add to what I said yesterday with regard to Irish Supply. Three days have already been devoted to it, and I am not in a position to say at present that it will be possible to give more time to it. I shall have to see how the number of allotted days works out divided among the various competitors for time.

ADMIRAL FIELD: Can the right hon. Gentleman say when the Shipbuilding and Admiralty Votes will be taken.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir.

MR. WEIR: I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he will give three days to the Scotch Estimates, and whether he is aware that during the last

two or three years many of the Scotch Votes have not been discussed at all.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should always regret that the hon. Member had not full opportunity of expressing his views.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): Can the right hon. Gentleman see his way to give more than one day to the discussion of the Home Office Vote. There were a great many subjects to be raised, one of them being vivisection.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I believe that there was a discussion last year on the subject to which the hon. Member refers, but he will agree that my difficulties are considerable. The hon. Gentleman next to him wants another day for Irish Supply; the hon. Gentleman himself wants another day for the Home Office Vote; my hon. and Gallant Friend wants a day for the Admiralty Vote; and the hon. Member for Ross wishes three days to be given to Scotch Votes.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: There was no discussion of vivisection last year on the Estimates. I raised the question on the Appropriation Bill, and, quite rightly, I was called to order by the Speaker three times in five minutes.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 270.)

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. (No. 270.)

Bill as amended in the Standing Committee, to be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 265.)

SUPPLY (ADDITIONAL DAYS).

Ordered that three additional days be allotted to the Business of Supply.—(Mr. Balfour.)

SUPPLY [18th ALLOTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS III.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £39,232, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries of the Law Officers' Department; the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury, Queen's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions; the costs of prosecutions, of other legal proceedings, and of Parliamentary agency."

MR. WEIR: I beg to move to reduce this vote by £455 for the purpose of calling attention to the very unsatisfactory manner in which the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General are paid. They are remunerated by a system of salaries and fees. The system is a bad one. I think they should be paid by salary entirely, and I hope that, in his reply to me, the hon. and learned Gentleman will be able to give me some assurance that steps are being taken in that direction. I wish also to call attention to the allowance for personal clerks. Since the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General are paid by salary and fees, they surely ought to be able to provide the sum necessary for paying their personal clerks. Certainly the taxpayers should not be called upon to pay it. I believe the Attorney-General gets a salary of £6,000 or £7,000, and, in addition, a nearly equal amount in fees. The Solicitor-General receives very nearly as much, and I do think that, if these gentlemen had any modesty at all, they would be ashamed to charge this paltry sum for their personal clerks. I beg to move.

Motion made and question proposed—

"That Item A be reduced by £455, in respect of the Allowance for Personal Clerks."—(Mr. Weir.)

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I do not know whether I shall support this

reduction or not; it depends entirely upon the answer of the Solicitor-General. I do think that some explanation should be given to the Committee in regard to the system under which the Law Officers of the Crown are paid. A new system of remunerating the Law Officers has recently been adopted by the present Government. There was a good deal of trouble for six or seven years in connection with this matter. The late Government established a method of payment which enabled the House of Commons to know exactly how much both these officers received, but this Government has adopted the unusual course of reverting to the old system of payment by salary, supplemented by fees for contentious business. We were promised three years ago a Return in continuation of a Paper laid upon the Table showing the total emoluments of the Law Officers. I am told, however, that that Return has not been made, and I suggest that that is a breach of a distinct promise given to the Committee. There is only one further question I wish to raise, and that is in connection with the Railway Commission. We have sometimes criticised that body very severely. I believe that the salaries of the Commissioners are included in this Vote. They have done some useful work, especially in regard to workmen's trains, and I should be glad if the hon. and learned Gentleman could give us some details of the work accomplished, and some information as to the number of days the Commission has sat.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): In reply to the hon. Member for Ross, and his complaint of the charge for personal clerks, I would remind the Committee that under the old system these clerks were paid entirely by fees, and when the change took place and the salaries of the Law Officers were made to cover all contentious business it became necessary, of course, to make a new arrangement for the payment of clerks. An understanding was accordingly come to that a certain allowance should be granted for them. There had been a want of continuity in the Law Officers' Department, and it was found necessary some years ago to establish a Department where these clerks on modest salaries might be able to keep up the continuity of the work. I do not think the

Committee will see anything to complain of in an arrangement of that kind. The other items in the Vote have reference to the cost of criminal prosecutions incurred in connection with cases taken up at the public expense, and I do not think I need dwell upon them. I am not prepared to give the number of sittings of the Railway Commissioners, but I may say I think the public have every reason to be satisfied with the way in which the work is done. With regard to the Return which the hon. Member for Islington says was promised by the Attorney-General, I do not remember the circumstances, but I will make inquiry, and I can assure him that any pledge given by my hon. and learned friend will most certainly be carried out.

MR. LOUGH : I really think the reply of the hon. and learned Member is rather unsatisfactory. Unfortunately the Attorney-General is away, and he is not likely to be here when the Report of this Vote is taken. I do not think we should part with the Vote until we get an answer to my question. It is admitted that a change has been made in the system of remunerating the Law Officers, and we want to be able to compare the new system with the old system. We discussed this point three years ago, and we were promised a Return showing the exact amount received by the Law Officers. That Return we have not yet received. I should like to point out, further, that no explanation appears on the Votes in connection with the items lettered B, C, D, E, and F.

*THE CHAIRMAN : Order, order ! This is a motion to reduce a particular item, and the Debate must be confined to that item.

SIR R. B. FINLAY : I can only repeat that I will inquire exactly what took place, and if the Return was promised it certainly shall be prepared.

MR. WEIR : Can the hon. and learned Gentleman state the exact amount he has received by way of fees, in addition to his salary of £6,000 ?

SIR R. B. FINLAY : I am afraid I cannot answer that, but of course the figures will appear in the Return.

MR. WEIR : I beg to ask leave to withdraw my motion, in view of the

promise that we shall have this information.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. LOUGH : Can the hon. and learned Gentleman give any further explanation as to items B, C, D, E, and F ? They cover a sum of £50,000 or more.

SIR R. B. FINLAY : These are the costs of criminal prosecutions in cases taken up at the public expense. The Committee will see that, to give fuller explanations in the Votes of these items, would really mean furnishing the bills of costs incurred in these criminal prosecutions and other proceedings. It would be an almost impossible task to do this.

MR. WEIR : What about item C ? Is there any special business warranting the increase in that ?

SIR R. B. FINLAY : It is an involuntary increase due to the nature of the business and the greater proportion of costs recovered. It is an increased expense which has resulted in a reduction in the amount of outstanding costs.

MR. LOUGH : I think we ought to have further information given us in regard to the miscellaneous law charges. Why are the letters printed in the Votes if no explanation is to be given ? Surely the object of the letter is to indicate that there is an explanation elsewhere.

SIR R. B. FINLAY : I think the practice pursued on this occasion is that which is always pursued, and if we were to give all these minor details complaint would be made of expense uselessly incurred in printing them.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. £13,200, to complete the sum for Miscellaneous Legal Expenses.

3. £206,527, to complete the sum for Supreme Court of Judicature.

4. £16,742, to complete the sum for Land Registry.

5. £29,714, to complete the sum for County Courts.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): What is being done to carry out the understanding which was come to last year with regard to the taking of steps for the reduction of fees?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): Something has been done in that direction, although there has not been a general revision. Of course, there are two opinions as to whether it is desirable to make any considerable reduction. This complaint really arose in regard to the smaller cases, and while, on the one hand, the fees charged did seem unduly high, on the other it was a question if they did not have some effect in discouraging the grant of credit by tradesmen.

DR. CLARK (Caithness-shire): I see there is an increase in the fees of £1,500. Is that due to any change in the scales?

MR. HANBURY: No change has been made.

DR. CLARK: There is a new charge of £2,000. What is the meaning of that? Are you appointing any more judges or other officers? This is an entirely new charge.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: The Committee is aware that a great deal of new work has arisen in connection with the Workmen's Compensation Act. These expenses are incurred in connection with that.

DR. CLARK: What is the money spent for, or what is it to be spent upon?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: This is an item in respect of the remuneration of arbitrators appointed under the Act.

DR. CLARK: I think there should be some inquiry into the working of the county court system in England. In Scotland the cost is very much less, and there we do for 2s. 1d. about as much as two guineas is charged for in England. I think the cheaper Scotch system ought to be introduced into this country.

Vote agreed to.

6. £40,968, to complete the sum for Police, England and Wales.

7. Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £415,161 be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the expenses of the Prisons in England, Wales, and the Colonies."

*SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I rise to move the reduction of this Vote in respect of the imprisonment of debtors. I did so last year simply on the general lines that debtors were subjected to discipline which was not general, which, in fact, does not obtain in Scotland. I think it is very unfair that we should be called upon to pay a quota of the expense of maintaining 8,000 debtors in England, while England contributes nothing for any similar purpose in Scotland. This year there is much greater necessity for calling attention to this matter. Owing to an Act passed last session the treatment of debtors in English prisons has been greatly aggravated. Within the last couple of months a circular based on the Bill passed last year has been issued, and it has called forth strong comments from several county court judges. I wish to give the Committee the opinion of one or two of those judges. On 1st May the Birmingham County Court judge, Judge Whitehorn, after announcing that he had received a circular from the Home Office informing him of the changes which had been made in the treatment of debtor prisoners, said there were three main alterations of which it was only right public notice should be taken. The first was that, although hitherto debtors had been allowed to obtain their food and drink from outside the prison, under the new rules they would receive an allowance of food similar to that prescribed for offenders of the first division who did not maintain themselves. I would ask, does the increased sum of £8,000 now asked for the maintenance of prisoners represent the amount required for providing food for these debtors? Again, as the learned judge pointed out, they are to be required to work at their own trade or at some industry. They will receive the whole of their earnings, subject to a deduction for the cost of their maintenance and the use of implements furnished by the prison. That means that for the first

time in I do not know how many years since the introduction of reforms in our prison system debtors are to be put on compulsory work. Hitherto they have been confined in prison under the fiction, not that they owe money, but that they have refused to obey an order of the court. Now they nominally remain under the rule sanctioned by the right hon. Gentleman as civil prisoners. There is to be some slight difference made between them and criminal prisoners.

MR. DILLON: None.

*SIR CHARLES CAMERON: Theoretically there is to be a difference, but in all material respects their position is assimilated to that of criminal prisoners. The learned judge went on to say that the third chief change was, that whereas these prisoners formerly had a common room, for use in the daytime, they were, in the future, to be confined to their cells at all times except when at chapel, and at exercise. Was there ever such a retrograde movement in connection with the treatment of civil prisoners? Certainly, the debtor is still to be allowed to wear his own clothes, but it is only due to a vote given in the Committee upstairs that they are not to be put into prison clothes. Again, they are to be kept separate from the criminal prisoners, and that too, I think, was owing to something we did upstairs. In future they are to be allowed to receive only one visitor and write and receive one letter a week. I do not know what the rule in regard to that has hitherto been in England, but I do know what it was in Scotland before imprisonment for debt was abolished. There they were allowed to receive any reasonable number of visitors and to write any reasonable number of letters. Why should you prevent a man who is in prison in consequence of his financial difficulties from communicating with friends outside with a view to securing financial assistance? Why limit him to one letter a week? The County Court judge further went on to point out what would be the effect of these new rules upon his practice. Inasmuch as the punishment was made much more severe, and as the debtors were being brought nearer to the status of criminals, he thought that the commitment for forty days, which was deemed sufficient under the old system, would find its equivalent

in twenty days under the new system. Judge Edge, of the Clerkenwell County Court, has also expressed somewhat similar sentiments, and he added that he would require in the future to be satisfied more definitely as to a man's means of paying before he made a committal order. Probably that is not a perfectly accurate record of what the learned judge said, because, as a matter of theory, a judge has all along been expected to satisfy himself as to the debtor's means of paying before committing him. But the fact is, that these cases are got through in a most hurried style, and that the evidence received is often of such a nature that it is altogether unworthy of the name of evidence. Still this judge has said that he will be more stringent in future in exacting proof of means. My contention is that this is a retrograde movement in the treatment of debtors, and that instead of it we ought to be progressing with a view to getting imprisonment for debt really abolished. The right hon. Gentleman will, no doubt, tell the Committee that debtors are to be subjected to compulsory work in consequence of the report of the Departmental Committee presided over by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Leeds. I do not wish to contest the position taken up in that report, that if debtors are kept in prison it is better that they should have some employment. But if you are going to make the debtor a criminal, then I think that affords us the best argument that can be advanced for the total abolition of imprisonment for debt. Whoever heard of a rich bankrupt who would not pay his debts being sent to prison? All the 8,000 debtors kept in prison together probably among them do not owe as much as that gigantic debtor, Mr. Hooley, whom the Public Prosecutor refused to have anything to do with. We had the same system working in Scotland, only not quite so bad. In England debtors are maintained at the cost of the State, and not as was the case in Scotland at the cost of the incarcerating creditor. Twenty years ago we abolished every vestige of imprisonment for debt in Scotland. Why should the State step in in the case of these small debtors to give the creditor the means of enforcing payment, which is not done in the case of the rich? What is the result of this system? Who are the debts eventually

Sir Charles Cameron.

collected from? Why, the screw is put not on the debtor, but on some of his or her poor relatives, who often have to pawn everything they can to get the person out of prison. I may be told that imprisonment for debt does not exist, but that it is imprisonment for contempt of court; but that seems to me to be an absurd theory. I am not an advocate of allowing anything in the shape of fraud to escape punishment, but under Scottish law the poor man who commits a fraud is just as liable to criminal proceedings as the rich man. What is the result under the English system? It may be that some pedlar manages to induce a poor man's wife to buy goods which are certainly not necessary, and the husband may know nothing about the debt until he is brought up before the County Court judge. Evidence is given as to his wages, and he is ordered to pay a certain amount, but he cannot do it, and he goes to prison. But does imprisonment purge that man's debt? Not at all, for he may go to prison again and again, and still be as deeply in debt as ever. It is, however, different with the rich man, for he never goes to prison at all. The rich man gets his discharge unless there is something very bad against him, if he can scrape together 10s. in the £. I know a case where a bankrupt put all the money he received into his wife's account. He then took all the debts upon his own shoulders and went through the Bankruptcy Court, and he got his discharge despite all the protests which his creditors could make against him. This system does not exist in any other civilised country but our own, and it is a barbarous system. I protest against this Vote, because under last year's Prisons Act the treatment of debtors has been made infinitely worse, because they have been reduced, if not quite to the status of criminals, to something very nearly approaching it. That is a retrograde movement on the part of the right hon. Gentleman and his advisers in these matters, and the question seems to me to call for a pronouncement of opinion on the part of this House, that the time has come when imprisonment for debt should be abolished. I beg to move the reduction of this Vote by £500.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £410,161, be granted for the said Service." —(Sir Charles Cameron.)

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I am very glad that this question has been raised to-day, for I believe that the alteration made in the treatment of prisoners for debt was a retrograde movement. There can be no doubt that under the present regulations debtors are reduced to the condition and status of criminals. I remember the time when the debtors' prison was one of the pleasantest places possible to go in, providing you had agreeable friends. I have spent many pleasant hours in the Debtors' Prison, Dublin, where we had a tennis court, and where the prisoners were allowed to have their friends to spend a pleasant evening. Since the abolition of the old Debtors' Prison system you have lowered the status of the unfortunate debtor to that of the criminal. Whatever the pretext may be for imprisonment—whether it be contempt of court or treason—the offence of all these individuals who are imprisoned really is that they refuse to pay when the court thinks they are able to pay. The way the problem presents itself to my mind is that you ought not to imprison any man who is not guilty of a crime; and the question is, Is the refusal to pay a debt a crime? I hold that it is not. I believe a great public benefit will be done by directing the attention of the public to the fact that a large number of persons are condemned to imprisonment as debtors without any of the protection to which the ordinary citizen is surrounded when charged with a crime. A debtor, I hold, is not guilty of a crime according to modern ideas. In olden times I know he was, and was subjected to most cruel tyranny. I maintain that a man who refuses to pay when he is able to pay is not guilty of a crime. He may be guilty of a moral offence, but we do not punish men for moral offences. If a man is guilty of fraud he ought to be proceeded against for fraud, and ought to be treated as a criminal, and be afforded the same protection as other criminals. The judges alluded to by the hon. Member have had recourse to a remedy of their own, and they have cut down their sentences accordingly, in order to compensate for the increased severity of the prison rules. A great many judges, however, would take no notice of this, and would proceed to deal with debtors as before. I was much surprised to hear that the whole system had been swept away in Scotland. The system does prevail in Ireland, and it is used in a reckless way. Some

of the judges are in the habit of committing people for different periods of imprisonment for contempt of Court with reference to the non-payment of instalments and other similar offences. Men and women are lying in gaol in Ireland who have been there for many months without any proper trial, and who, under these new regulations, are treated as criminals, although they are first-class misdemeanants—although they have not, as a matter of fact, been guilty of any crime whatever. I am extremely glad that the hon. Member has brought this matter before the attention of the House.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): I am not prepared to defend the law of imprisonment for debt, but I would remind the hon. Baronet opposite that the state of the law in England, at all events, is that a debtor who, being able to pay, is adjudged to pay and refuses, is sent to prison. It is under those circumstances, not under the very agreeable circumstances mentioned by the hon. Member for East Mayo, which remind one of a story by Dickens, that a debtor is sent to prison. At present it is the practice of the county courts that a man is sent to prison who is able to pay his debts, but refuses to pay them. I am not prepared now to argue in favour of the maintenance of that law; but if I were so inclined, I venture to say this is not the occasion to deal with it. So far as the Prison Commissioners are concerned, I am sure it is no advantage to them to get this class of prisoner into prison. The hon. Baronet is perfectly right when he says that I based this reform upon the recommendations of a Committee presided over by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Leeds, and appointed by my right hon. friend and predecessor, whom I see opposite. That Committee recommended in the strongest terms that it was high time that a less difference should be made between ordinary prisoners and debtors than had been the custom; that various abuses had grown up, and that there was no reason why these men should not be compelled to work. It was regarded as an abuse that they should earn two or three shillings a day by refusing to pay their just debts, and all at the expense of the country. A

similar recommendation had also been made by former Prison Commissioners and other high authorities, and it was with a view to carrying it out that the first step was taken under the Bill of last year, by giving power to Prison Commissioners and Governors to stop the providing of meals from outside for these debtors. The second point refers to the obligation compelling them to work. I quite agree with the hon. Baronet that it is not a question of fraudulent debtors, but of debtors guilty of nothing but refusing to pay what they are ordered to pay. I have had not only the Report of the Committee, but frequent representations from Prison Visiting Committees in Birmingham and other centres, complaining of the grievous trouble there was in dealing with this class of prisoners; that the latitude allowed them was very subversive of discipline, and that it was a gross abuse of the law that this should be done at the public expense. Therefore I proposed, in connection with the Bill, certain rules to be laid before the House, with the full knowledge of the Committee, and the Bill became an Act. It is not correct to assert that debtors are practically criminal prisoners. The only privilege taken away has been the privilege to provide their own meals and the privilege of not being compelled to work. If the hon. Gentlemen concerned in this matter will turn to page 50 of the Parliamentary Paper they will see how carefully the position of a debtor has been guarded. He is allowed to wear his own clothes, if sufficiently clean, and is not compelled to work at any penal kind of labour or any work allotted to a prisoner under a hard labour sentence. He can choose the character of his work, so far as possible, but it must be of an industrial character. I have already had evidence that these rules have given great satisfaction to many of these men. That is a distinct advance. The hon. Baronet imagines that these men are kept perpetually shut up. The rule is that debtors, when they can possibly work in association, do so, and if they work in their cells the cell doors are open. So far from there being any complaint the contrary has been the case, and I cannot understand how the new rules can be held to be a step backwards. I can quite understand that it might be well if, as in Scotland, imprisonment for debt were

Mr. Dillon.

abolished, but that does not concern this Vote. These men are committed to prison under the law, and I believe the Act of last session enables them to be better treated. It is in no way a hardship to them, and does not compel them to associate with criminal prisoners.

*SIR CHARLES CAMERON : I intend to divide the Committee on this question. Every time is, I am told, not the proper time to bring it up, but if the right hon. Gentleman is open to consider the question of imprisonment for debt, and will give us an indication of his willingness to appoint a Select Committee, of course, not this year, to inquire into it, that will be a different matter. Otherwise, I shall have to take every opportunity I can find to call attention to the matter. May I take it that the right hon. Gentleman will hold out any hope of an inquiry ?

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY : I am certainly not able in a matter not connected with my Department to give any such pledge.

*SIR CHARLES CAMERON : The right hon. Gentleman described a debtor under the new system as a prosperous and contented animal — as a man earning 30s. a week. Why, let him earn it by all means; encourage him to work. But the difference between the criminal and the civil prisoner always has been that labour was wholly optional in the case of the latter, though compulsory in the case of the former. The right hon. Gentleman says these men work in association, but the rule is that when they are not at work or

at exercise they must lie in their cells. I do not know whether the cell doors are open or shut. He said nothing regarding the restriction of communication with the outside to one visit or letter a week. Why should a man be prevented from writing letters because he happens to be a debtor? We had a large Committee consisting of twenty Members which inquired into the whole system of imprisonment for debt in Scotland, and they were unanimously of opinion that it should be abolished. A number of these debtors are men who become securities, and though legally responsible for the debt they have incurred no moral fault. It might be for the convenience of the Committee if we had a Division on this question now, and then the consideration of the Vote can be resumed.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthen, W.) : I agree with what the hon. Baronet has said with regard to imprisonment for debt. I certainly understood—during the Committee on the Bill of last session—that the Home Secretary himself was rather inclined to the view that imprisonment for debt should be abolished altogether. I hope that he entertains that view and that he will do all he can to bring this question before the Government.

*THE CHAIRMAN : Order, order! Questions that can only be dealt with by legislation cannot be discussed in Committee of Supply.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 75 ; Noes, 212. (Division List, No. 228.)

AYES.

Ashton, Thomas Gair
Austin, M.
Barlow, John Emmott
Billson, Alfred
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Crombie, John William
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davitt, Michael
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.

Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Flynn, James Christopher
Fox, Dr. Joseph Francis
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gourley, Sir Edward T.
Harwood, George
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kiteon, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Logan, John William
Lough, Thomas

Macaleese, Daniel
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Ewan, William
M'Ghee, Richard
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon

Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Strachey, Edward

Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, D. A. (Merthyr)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)

Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Charles Cameron and
 Mr. Lloyd Morgan.

NOES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arrol, Sir William
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. Henry
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
 Baird, John G. Alexander
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir. M. H. (Br'st'l)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Comn-ander
 Bhownagree, Sir M. M.
 Birrell, Augustine
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glas.)
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Corbett A. Cameron (Glasgow)
 Courtney, Rt. Hn. Leonard H.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Curzon, Viscount
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drage, Geoffrey
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Elliot, Hon. H. Ralph Douglas

Ellis, John Edward
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
 Ferguson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r)
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, HnAGH. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbt. John
 Goldsworthy, Major General
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. Wm.
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-Hilder, Augustus
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (H'mpste'd)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. L. R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
 Jackson, Rt. Hn. William L.
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning. (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Edw. H.
 Leighton, Stanley
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool.)
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. (Kent)

Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Killop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, C. J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 Palmer, George W. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Pender, Sir James
 Percy, Earl
 Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, Gen. F. S. (Ch't'n'm)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limhouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheeshire)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart

Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Wallace, Robert

Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-un-L.)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
Wilson J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
Wodehouse, Rt Hon E R (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stnart-
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walron and
Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. LOUGH : The question I wish to bring before the right hon. Gentleman is the treatment of the warders, and prison labour generally. I think the warders in the prisons have been singularly patient in regard to their grievances, but there have been constant expressions of opinion upon them in my constituency. I have communicated with the right hon. Gentleman on the matter, and I must say that he has taken, to a certain extent, a sympathetic attitude, and if he would only go a little further I would not put the Committee to the trouble of a Division. There are 2,700 warders of all grades employed in metropolitan prisons, and, therefore, it is a large class of civil servants. It cannot be said that they are too well treated. They commence as assistants at £60 a year, with an increment of £1 a year till they reach £68. The principal warders begin at £70 a year, which rises by annual increments of £1 to £78—which is 30s. a week. These men have had a great many new duties thrown upon them by the recommendations of the Prisons Committee, who, while they considered the case of the prisoners, left out of consideration the treatment of the officials. The chief complaint of these officials is that they have to work a great deal too long hours. It may be said that though these hours are long, the work is of a mere routine and easy character; but though physically the work may not be severe, the strain is constant. The shortest hours they are on duty are seventy-four or seventy-six hours per week, and they run up to ninety-eight hours per week. If that is true the right hon. Gentleman must agree that it requires some consideration. They have also to work on Sundays, and to put in overtime for which they are not paid. The most serious grievance they have got is night duty. Their night duty is the longest spell of duty that any servant of the State has to do at the present time. It lasts over thirty-six hours—

commencing at six o'clock in the evening and going on constantly till six o'clock in the following evening. It is true they are allowed to lie down at intervals, but they are always liable to be called up, and very frequently they are called up. But even with that qualification, that is too long a spell of duty. I understand that in many prisons this night duty is enforced three times a week, although the ordinary course is five times in two weeks, but I think that twice a week at most is quite sufficient, and that is a reform to which I think the attention of the hon. Gentleman ought to be devoted. Another grievance of these men is that they are subject to a very severe system of fines. We have protested in this House against the system of fines in factories and warehouses, and I do not see why the State should not in this respect set the example. The scale of fines has been recently raised for all sorts of petty offences which I will not detain the Committee by quoting. But these men can be fined up to 5s., which makes a considerable hole in their weekly wages. I think this question ought to be considered by the right hon. Gentleman, and that the fines should be abolished, and that instead of fines a better system of discipline ought to be substituted. Then there is another question with regard to the clerks. They are very dissatisfied with the method of promotion, and there are few opportunities that are open to them in contrast with those they were led to expect when they joined the service. The only other point I wish to put is that there are two or three men in my constituency who think that because they have made reasonable complaints they have been harshly treated by the Home Office. There is an idea that they are made martyrs if they make any complaint. I will not move a reduction of the Vote if the right hon. Gentleman will give me a sympathetic answer. I will ask him three questions : (1) Whether he is willing that an inquiry should be made into these matters ; (2) if the hours of

labour—and this is the principal point—are found to be as long as, or nearly as long as they are represented, whether some reasonable reform will be made; and thirdly, whether he will give an assurance that none of the warders who bring forward a matter in a reasonable way shall be subject to any disabilities, and if any case of that kind is brought to his notice whether he will put the matter right.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I would like to back up the appeal of my hon. friend to the Home Secretary on behalf of two classes of public servants, the prison clerks and the prison warders, and particularly the case of the prison warders. As the right hon. Gentleman knows, I have had close connection with prison warders for quite a number of years, and I must say that while their duty was to make my stay under their charge as unpleasant as possible, I always sympathised with the position which they hold. Really the prison warden, in the discharge of his duty to the public, has to undergo a kind of half penal servitude existence himself. He has to submit to semi-imprisonment in order to fulfil the duties he undertakes to discharge for the public. Then, again, a great responsibility is thrown upon him—more so than on any other class of public servant—considering the little remuneration he gets for the work. He has to be more vigilant than any other public servant during the whole time he is on duty, and as my hon. friend has pointed out, night duty is specially hard in his case. I think, taking all these facts into consideration, these men are not paid as they ought to be by the public funds. I cannot ask the right hon. Gentleman to borrow much that is worthy of imitation in the public life of America just now, because America seems to be following the bad example of England in many respects, but in the matter of payment for duties of this kind, in the matter of remunerating prison warders, America is far more generous than this country is. The same may be said in reference to the salaries paid to the prison warders in the Australian Colonies. In every one of these colonies to which I have been I have found that the pay and the conditions of service are much more favourable than they are in this country. I trust, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman will take the case of prison warders and

prison clerks into his consideration, and will try and see that these men get a better wage for their duties.

MAJOR - GENERAL GOLDSWORTHY (Hammersmith): I only wish to add one word in support of the appeal of the prison officials. It is necessarily monotonous and irksome to be continuously associated with prison people, and I would suggest to the Home Secretary that he should take into consideration the desirability of giving the officials more recreation and more opportunities for promotion.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY : There can be no question that the post of the warders is a very monotonous and irksome one, and at the same time considerable responsibility is attached to it. I am, therefore, not surprised that hon. Members should say that they are not adequately remunerated. I have taken some pains to look into the matter. The hon. Gentleman who asked me certain questions spoke of the duties which are imposed on the officials by the new Act of Parliament, and it is perfectly true that those duties have increased as regards the number of books that have to be kept, and other matters. The hon. Gentleman has also said that the hours are too long. Upon that subject I am quite prepared to admit that there is room for improvement in various directions. The hon. Gentleman will recollect that in 1891 a Committee, presided over by Lord De Ramsey, went into the question of the hours of prison warders, and the standard which was then fixed has more or less been the rule since. They recognised that ten hours a day were about the standard hours of work. I find that the hours work out on the average at about 8½ per day, with certain excesses at Holloway, Wandsworth, and Pentonville. As regards night duty, I believe that night duty takes place in one prison two days a week, and in all the other prisons one day a week. But what is night duty? It is going on duty at eight; from eight to ten having to sit in the mess room, or wherever the official likes—though, of course, he is liable to be called upon—and then from ten to six he is at liberty to go to bed. Then there is the question of evening duty. There is no doubt that at Holloway, which is the great receiving prison for London, the

Mr. Lough.

evening hours, which ought to be from six to eight, are very often extended up to nine and ten by reason of the frequent admissions. I admit that this is a state of things which ought to be remedied, and I will give my attention to it. I think, however, the present state of affairs can only be improved by some increase in the staff. I have for some time been considering the matter, and I am at the present moment in communication with the Treasury with that object in view. With regard to the clerks, I have no figures before me, and no particular item of which I can speak. I can, however, say that I have done my best to secure some promotions, and the position of clerks has been greatly improved.

DR. CLARK : I am glad that something is going to be done for English warders and English prison officials, and if I move a reduction of this Vote, I move it because we have in Scotland a class of men of the same character who are very much worse paid. In England, chaplains are, on the whole, paid a fair salary. The salaries begin at £300, and are increased to £400. But in Scotland they begin at £200, and are only increased to £300. A Scotch chaplain has to undergo a very severe training, and he requires to spend seven or eight years' hard work before he can be ordained. A commencing salary of £200 a year, therefore, is too small, and you cannot expect to get a good class of men. If I appear to be moving the reduction of the English level down to the Scotch level, it is really for the purpose of raising the Scotch level to the English. But after all I move this reduction rather from the standpoint of the medical profession than from that of the clerical profession. I daresay the function of a clergyman is a very useful one, but the medical officer is absolutely necessary, and I think under the prison system even in England the profession is not overpaid. In England the salaries of medical officers start at £400 and are increased to £500. I do not say that that is too much, and I move my Amendment more for the purpose of levelling up than of levelling down. But in our Scotch prisons the same class of men begin at £200 a year.

AN HON. MEMBER : On a point of order, is the hon. Gentleman really en-

titled to discuss the position of things in Scotch prisons ?

*THE CHAIRMAN : He is entitled to move a reduction on the ground that the English officials are paid too much.

DR. CLARK : I do not say that the English officials are paid too much, but that the Scotch officials are paid too little. You cannot get a decent class of men to enter your service if you pay them so miserable a sum. I think the position of our Scotch medical officers ought to be considered as well as the position of the English warders, and I therefore beg to move the reduction of the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £415,061, be granted for the said Service.—(Dr. Clark.)

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE (Rochester) : On behalf of my constituents, I protest against the action taken by the hon. Gentleman the Member for Caithness. Because he thinks he has a better opportunity for raising a Scotch question upon this Vote than upon another, he raises it now when Scotch Members are elsewhere. I think, considering the large amount of time which is given to Scotch Members, we might be spared this occasion for the purposes of English Members.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeen, W.) : I am very glad that my hon. friend has brought up this question, as this is very likely the only opportunity we shall have of discussing a matter of great importance to our country, and the Home Secretary will no doubt be glad enough to—

*THE CHAIRMAN : Order, order ! What I said was that the hon Member for Caithness was entitled to move a reduction of the Vote on the ground that the salaries paid to the public officials to whom he referred were too great, and that he could use an illustration to show that they were too great. I do not think a discussion of the Scotch question is in order.

DR. CLARK : Under the circumstances, I do not wish to put the Committee to the trouble of a Division, but I can tell the

noble Lord that the only chance we have of getting anything is to plead poverty continually, as Ireland has done. We are taxed to the highest extent possible, and at the same time we are underpaid. I beg to withdraw my motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

*MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): The new rules for the government of convict and local prisons have too recently come into operation to enable us to discuss them at any great length; but my object this afternoon is to call the attention of the Home Secretary to the question of education in convict and local prisons. I think the matter was considered by a Departmental Committee in 1885, and the facts showed a great deficiency of education in prisons, and there was a general consensus of opinion that an improvement in the selection of the subjects of education, and in the education itself, was desirable. There is an appalling amount of ignorance prevailing among the prison population of this country, the number of those who can neither read nor write is enormously high, and the standard of education given is of the lowest character. This being so, it is a matter of great regret that under the Bill of last year not a great deal has been done with respect to this matter. I am not altogether an admirer of the American system, especially that adopted at Elmira; still it is, in regard to prison education, an example which it would be desirable to follow. I earnestly appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to give his sanction to the proposals which the School Board are making with reference to the local prisons in London. Last year, under the School Board, some lectures were held in one prison with great advantage, and they only entailed a small amount of extra labour in the prison. I think the right hon. Gentleman might go a little further and allow an evening continuation school at the prison at Wormwood Scrubs. I do not say the persons who do not wish to attend should be compelled to do so, and I believe very few of the prisoners would refuse to attend if asked. At the same time the discipline of the prison would be very little disturbed by it. I think such a departure would be productive of very great good. There is one other subject

I would like to refer to, and that is the plank bed. Mr. Justice Mathew, in sentencing a prisoner at a recent assize, used some remarkable language with regard to the hardship and the inhumanity of the practice of the use of a plank bed. I trust the right hon. Gentleman will do the utmost in his power to limit the use of it. If that were done I am sure a good deal would be accomplished in the way of prison reform.

MR. LOUGH: I merely desire to refer to the answer given to me by the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman has shown by that answer that there is a conflict, as to the facts of which I wish to get to the bottom. He said that the average hours were from seventy to ninety a week; but I think that must be for the whole of seven days. The right hon. Gentleman explained that the night duty was not nearly so onerous, that it extended from eight o'clock in the evening to six o'clock in the morning. But the warders have told me that they have to do that after a regular day's duty, which has terminated at six or seven o'clock in the evening. I shall be glad if the Home Secretary will inquire into these two matters of Sunday duty and night duty, and if the statement of the men is correct no doubt the matter will be put right. I would also ask whether it is correct that punishment has been inflicted upon any warder for making complaint on these matters in a proper way.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I cannot answer off-hand, but I will inquire, and if the hours are as the hon. Member suggests, the matter shall be put right. As to any warder being reprimanded for having made complaints, I am sure the Commissioners would not be influenced by such a circumstance. Upon the question of education, it is a well-known fact that it is largely the uneducated classes that compose the prison population. It is certainly very desirable to do what we can to improve the education of such prisoners, and under the new rules very considerable steps have been taken. Every prisoner under the age of forty, and not up to a certain standard, is entitled to four hours' instruction per week. The conditions in that respect are much in advance of what previously existed. With regard to the proposal of the London

Dr. Clark.

School Board, referred to by the hon. Member behind me, that is quite new to me, and I should have considerable hesitation about accepting it without a great deal of consideration. It is a subject I should refer to the Prison Commissioners for a report. It is perfectly true that the last report of the Prison Commissioners does point out how lamentably short of any reasonable standard the great bulk of our prisoners are, but they also state that in the case of prisoners under thirty years of age, there has been a considerable increase in the educational standard.

MR. DAVITT: I am very glad to hear of the great progress which has been made in the way of providing education for illiterate prisoners, and I hope that further facilities will be provided in that direction. The right hon. Gentleman is going to take the case of prison warders into consideration. Will that include the salaries and duties of female as well as of male warders?

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Of course.

MR. DAVITT: I am glad to hear that, because I have heard that the women who have to perform this very disagreeable duty are not paid at a similar rate to that of the men.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I beg the hon. Member's pardon. I made no promise as to salaries, but only to inquire whether the hours are excessive.

MR. DAVITT: I understood the right hon. Gentleman would take that as well as other matters into consideration, and as he generally brings a very fair mind to bear upon these questions I hope, with the facts which have been put before him, he will really consider whether or not male and female warders are underpaid for the discharge of this very troublesome duty. With reference to the support of what are called Imperial convicts in Australia and Tasmania, the amount stated in the Vote appears to be rather large for the maintenance of the few still remaining. I went to see some of them when I was out there, and they appeared to be mostly old men. Is the right hon. Gentleman satisfied from the reports he

gets that these convicts are really in existence? I assume he has some data which will satisfy him whether the number is decreasing.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: There is no doubt about the accuracy of the figures.

MR. ASQUITH (Fife, East): Before the Committee pass this Vote, I think it is only right that some expression should be given to our gratification, both to the Home Office and to the Prison Commissioners, at the comparatively small area of criticism which their administration has offered during the last year. I say this, because of all branches of administration prison administration is, perhaps, the most difficult in its details, if not in its general principles. Undoubtedly, as it is conducted in these days, it is subject to a much greater amount of public attention than used to be the case. During the past year there have been introduced, with the general assent of all parties in the House, a number of changes in our prison system, all of which are in the direction of greater humanity and elasticity. It is gratifying to find from this Debate that the result of those changes has been not to increase but rather to curtail the area of legitimate criticism, and I do not think we should be doing justice to those who have charge of this very responsible part of administration if we did not offer them our congratulations.

Question put, and agreed to.

8. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £124,195, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expense of the Maintenance of Juvenile Offenders in Reformatory, Industrial, and Day Industrial Schools in Great Britain, and of the Inspectors of Reformatories."

*SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I move the reduction of this Vote by £500. This has been a mischievous item of expenditure. A Departmental Committee, of which I was chairman, appointed in 1894 to inquire into the subject of the industrial and reformatory schools in Scotland found that the children were educated not under

the Scotch code but under the English code, and that instead of being inspected by the Scotch inspectors of education they were inspected by English inspectors. The result is that the education of these children is kept back, and they are sent forth into the general community earmarked as children who have received their education in either a reformatory or industrial school. Last year the right hon. Gentleman promised to give this matter his consideration, but nothing has been done. The Committee to which I have referred recommended that these schools should be transferred from the jurisdiction of the Home Secretary to that of the Secretary for Scotland. It was also found that many of the children in these schools had previously passed the English fifth standard two or three times, while if the schools had been under the Scotch code they could have been advanced to the sixth or ex-sixth standard. No legislation is needed to put that particular matter right, but by a stroke of his pen the right hon. Gentleman could direct that the education should be given according to the Scotch code, and the inspection be by Scotch inspectors. The benefits of such changes are obvious. There is a still greater mischief arising out of that anomaly. It is not good for them that these boys and girls should be constantly reminded of having been reformatory school pupils. It is desirable that all such connection should be forgotten, and that the children should be allowed to mingle, without being earmarked, among the general population. But when these children go forth, if they speak of any educational matter they at once betray their ignorance of the current arrangements in Scotch schools, and immediately they will be asked where they were educated. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will give some satisfactory assurance that this simple and obvious defect will be grappled with, and the recommendations of the Departmental Committee in this respect carried out. No such anomaly prevails in Ireland, as there the management of reformatory and industrial schools is under an Irish Board, but that, however, is a different matter. I beg to move the reduction of the Vote by £500.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
"That a sum, not exceeding £123,695, be granted for the said Service."—(Sir Charles Cameron.)

Sir Charles Cameron.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire) : My hon. friend has referred to the Report of the Scotch Departmental Committee. May I, in support of his argument, call the attention of the House to the Report of the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Committee of 1894 ? They recommended that the Scotch schools should be transferred to the Scotch Office, so that there is no difference of opinion among experts, or among those who are well able to judge, that this transfer should take place. It seems to be merely a matter of persuading the Scotch Education Department and the Home Secretary to move in the matter, and really to carry out what is certainly most desirable in the interests of the Scotch educational system.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY : I hardly understand what the hon. Baronet means by English education being given in Scotch industrial schools. They are all under the rule of a managing committee.

*SIR CHARLES CAMERON : They are inspected by English inspectors, who examine the children under the English code, and the education is absolutely different from that in other schools.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY : I cannot understand why the managers of the industrial schools could not secure the examination of their pupils under the Scotch code if they desired it. So far as that question is concerned I am at one with the hon. Baronet. My Department is in thorough agreement on the subject; we are perfectly willing that arrangements should be made for the Scottish Department to be responsible for their own schools. Last year there was a Bill drafted, but there was some difficulty with the Treasury, and it was not introduced. I should not have the slightest objection to seeing the Bill introduced and carried at the earliest possible moment, but I am afraid it cannot be this session.

*SIR CHARLES CAMERON : After that statement I do not wish to press my Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman cannot understand why this thing is done, but it is done, and that is a matter which does not require a Bill to deal with it. I am sorry the Scottish Education Department does not deal with the question.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The Scottish Education Department has nothing to do with these schools; they are under the Home Office.

*SIR CHARLES CAMERON: Then surely the Home Office could get the Scotch schools to introduce Scotch standards, so as not to differentiate the children in reformatory and industrial schools by means of their education.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

ADMIRAL FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne): I want to raise the question of the whole system of management of these reformatory and industrial schools, including school ships. I cannot get any attention paid to the common-sense views which I have enunciated and which have been supported by the Departmental Committee. I have previously alluded to the Report of that Committee, but nothing has been done to carry out their recommendations. That Committee go further than I ever ventured to go, but I agree with their conclusions in the main. I am debarred from drawing the attention of the House to the present condition of things, owing to the fact that the last annual Report of the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Inspector has not yet been laid before Parliament. We go on with the same happy-go-lucky system which has been in force for many years, and the Home Office pay no attention to remonstrances made by their own officers. As far as the land schools go, I am willing to take it that they are doing noble work, but they would do more good work if the Home Office would give that attention to the question which it really deserves. These are really State schools. We are called upon to vote £264,195 for this school system, of which only £23,500 comes from county councils and district councils. Yet the State practically makes no conditions that the material turned out should be utilised to bear fruit for the good of the State. If the system was properly worked the healthy and sound boys might be trained as recruits for the Army, which, as we all know, sorely needs them. But my chief objection has to do with the industrial and reformatory school ships. The system of train-

ing in those ships is the most expensive that could be devised, but not too expensive if the human material turned out was in proportion to the cost. The material turned out is not adequate to the expense, because the Home Office go on in a happy-go-lucky fashion and do not attend to the report of their own inspector. It should be provided that only healthy, strong, and sound boys should be put in our ships at all. These are State ships, and they should be able to turn out sound human material to supply a great deal of the waste which must of necessity go on in the Navy. Everybody complains of the lack of British seamen in the Mercantile Marine, and various remedies have been suggested. Some reformers desire to increase the number of our training ships, but they have made out no case for doing so. Our training ships are commanded by Naval officers, and I know some of them are almost broken-hearted because they cannot turn out better results. I am afraid my right hon. friend will again content himself with giving me a similar answer to that which he gave last year—namely, that this question will be considered, and that due attention will be given to my observations. No doubt he will tell us again that the ships do a great deal of good. I do not deny that, but my point is that they might do a great deal more good if they were worked on common-sense principles. I want the Home Office to stop the entry of all boys sent by committals from the magistrates, who are no judges as to whether boys will make good sailors or soldiers. Such boys ought to be committed to the land schools in the first instance. If the Land Schools Committee did all in their power to facilitate the transfer of healthy lads, sound in wind and limb, then our training ships would turn out double the number of sailor boys, and I think everything that is possible should be done to encourage the transfer of these volunteers. At present these boys are sent to the ships at the age of ten and eleven, but, in my opinion, no boy should go to a ship until he is twelve years of age. If this suggestion were adopted, then the President of the Board of Trade would not need to talk about inducing shipowners to take sailor lads by reducing the light dues. If the Home Office would only look at this from a sailor's point of view, they would be doing a noble work for everybody, but they are

not now doing the best that can be done. The Home Office do not concern themselves at present to see that they get an adequate return for the money expended by them. These are practically State schools, because the voluntary contributions are next to nothing. The schools ought to be worked on systematic principles in accordance with the recommendations of the Departmental Committee, and they would do valuable national work if my suggestions were carried out. If these reforms were put into operation I should be saved the trouble of having to make these observations every year.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY : The hon. and gallant Gentleman has declared that he cannot get any satisfaction from this side of the House, and he has also anticipated that I shall again be prepared to say that these ships are doing excellent work. I may say that I am prepared to say that. It is quite true, as the hon. and gallant Member has said, that these institutions are almost entirely State schools, and are supported by the taxpayers of this country. It is admitted that they are national training ships and that they are of national importance, and it is a most desirable thing to encourage what my hon. and gallant friend has put forward, and to see that the lads sent there are properly trained and turned out as willing volunteers for service. The hon. and gallant Member has said that his annual motion receives very little encouragement, but perhaps he will allow me to say that the figures are better still this year. I find that the number of boys sent from these schools during the years 1894-95-96 were, to the Army, 1,343; the Navy, 343; and the mercantile marine, 955. For the years 1895-96-97 the figures rose to 1,636 for the Army; 410 for the Navy; and 1,065 in the mercantile marine. The hon. and gallant Member may take those figures as substantially correct. As regards the industrial schools in 1896, out of 703 boys 382 were sent to sea; but in 1898 out of 827 boys 476 were sent to sea, and I do not think that is a bad proportion. I think from these figures the hon. and gallant Member will see that, at any rate, we are moving in the right direction.

Question put and agreed to.
Admiral Field.

9. £21,942, to complete the sum for Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. Resolutions to be reported.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed—“That a sum, not exceeding £96,868, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the salaries and expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices.”

*SIR CHARLES DILKE : The annual Debate on the Home Office Vote ought, of course, to be based on the year's work. Here, in July, 1899, all we have before us is the work of 1897, which was already before us in July, 1898, when we discussed the Vote, excepting, indeed, mere tables and special reports on phosphorus and lead, supplementary to the regular work of that Department. The lead report, in its preliminary form, was itself before the Home Secretary in July last year. We have not received the report of the principal lady Inspector, for which we asked in February, and which has undoubtedly long since been ready, and is always, I believe, given to the House as a whole. Why should the reports be kept back? Three reasons were given in February. Apparently the main reason for a delay greater than ever occurred before was the preparation of a Bill which we have not seen. But in 1895, when the Department had a most important Bill, the report of Mr. Oram, then Chief Inspector, was presented on May 4, and was delivered to Members—Part 1 on June 8th, and Part 2 on May 9th. We are now told that the Report for 1898 is to be “left till autumn, and published towards the end of the year”; and the analogy of some other lagging Department is quoted. There are some Departments which publish their annual reports as early as March. Are they to be put eight months later. Are we also in future to have the Mines Report delayed for six months, which is now circulated in May? Last year the trouble of preparing the tables was given as a reason for a delay, which was, however, much less than the delay this year, for we had advance copies of the Report just in time for the Vote.

The tables this year have already been given. We are without the ordinary Report of the work, and we do not know how the Department is doing its work. I said that three reasons were given in February for the delay—that of the Bill which I have answered by this case of 1895 ; that of the preparation of special Reports, of which the lead Report, I believe, was really ready before the session, and both of which have long since been out ; and that of reorganisation of the Department. Is not that reorganisation already over ? The Bill has been dropped, and nothing survives of the reasons for further delay. Falling back upon all we have upon the work of the Department, namely, the 1897 Report, we are there told that it is too soon to judge of the working of the Truck Act of 1896, and this forms an additional reason why we should have had before us the Report of 1898. I cannot avoid moving a reduction of the salary of the defender of a system under which the work of the Factory and Workshop Department cannot be judged, for the Committee and the House are left in the dark, except as regards the special Reports—Reports which have not been fully acted upon. For the special Report on lead I have only praise. Its result, it was admitted in July last, ought to be a great improvement in special rules, and legislation if necessary. But arbitration on special rules remains, against which I gave a notice at the beginning of the session, and which has been condemned by the present Home Secretary and by the two last Home Secretaries on the Opposition side. There are two private Members' Factories and Workshops Bills before the House. Both of them have clauses abolishing arbitration in special rules, and there are also many other points in the admirable Bill of my honourable friend the Member for Berwickshire, which I hope the Home Secretary will include in his. In the Debate last year the Home Secretary said that it was not easy to get special rules, because they must be framed in such a way as to be successful on arbitration ; and he said he

"had to do the best I could under rather difficult circumstances."

In that Debate he expressed his agreement with all of us who urged that arbitration on special rules should be got rid of ; or, at least, modified "by legisla-

tion." Does the Home Secretary's Bill, as drawn, abolish arbitration on special rules ? We must insist that that Bill, when introduced next year, shall do so. It was on this point that we divided last year, for the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire asked for an undertaking that in 1899 the Home Secretary would abolish arbitration on special rules—a pledge which in distinct terms he did not give. The session of 1899 has gone without our obtaining this, and now we ask for a definite pledge for next year. On the 10th April my hon. friend the Member for North Monmouthshire asked the Home Secretary whether the Factory and Workshop Bill to be introduced this session would contain provisions such as those suggested by Professors Thorpe and Oliver in their Report on lead in the potteries, for prohibiting the use of lead for glazing earthenware in those kinds of ware in which it has been proved unnecessary ; for prescribing the use of fritted lead ; for prohibiting the use of raw lead ; and for prohibiting the employment of young persons and women as dippers, dippers' assistants, ware-cleaners, and glost placers, where lead glaze is used. The reply was :

"The Bill to amend the law which he has prepared will give power to the Secretary of State to deal, under certain conditions, with all these points."

In the Debate last year the Home Secretary announced that the use of leadless glaze was "within measurable distance." But experiment is now being made a ground for delay ; and surely we should fix a period within which the recommendations of Drs. Thorpe and Oliver must be adopted ; and this means legislation to get rid of arbitration on rules. The Home Secretary last year appeared to be somewhat opposed to direct legislation on lead, but said that a suggestion which fell from me, that he should be given greater power as to special rules was "well worthy of consideration." This means legislation to abolish arbitration. He has, however, not only not proposed this year the legislation on lead itself, which he seemed to promise my hon. friend the Member for North Monmouthshire on the 10th April, but not even legislation to abolish arbitration on special rules, and he has not issued the further special rules which he led us to expect. In the Debate last year, towards

its close, my hon. friend the hon. baronet the Member for Glasgow asked whether, "Supposing that the Report of the experts did not justify the Home Secretary in prohibiting altogether the use of dangerous substances in the potteries and match trade, would he undertake that the special rules applying to those two trades should be strengthened at an early date, and that he would resort to legislation if he saw no prospect of arriving at the result desired by special rules?" The Home Secretary answered in the affirmative, except that he could not definitely pledge himself as to legislation in this session. The pledge, however, was a strong one as given, and it led to the hon. Baronet, who had spoken for the Amendment, not voting against the Home Secretary's salary. Will the Home Secretary pledge himself in the same terms, but in words involving the early introduction of the Bill next year? The Home Secretary's last words last year were, "Of course I know that in both matters I must go further, and I am going to do so." How far has he done so? We cannot find in the cases of lead poisoning brought to us from the Potteries any improvement on the whole. The need for lead legislation is pressing, and if I had thought that there was the slightest chance of obtaining satisfactory legislation this year I should have continued to ask for its introduction; but when on the 19th June no date could be fixed for that introduction, I foresaw the certainty of failure, and declared that, sooner than have a mere shred of a Bill this year—a Bill making a dangerous relaxation of the law with regard to fish and jam, and not abolishing arbitration upon special rules, we had sooner wait for it to be next year, what it was promised in two speeches of Cabinet Ministers to be this year, namely, one of the chief measures of the session. On the 19th June, however, the Leader of the House said that the Home Secretary had done so much by way of administrative action in the dangerous trades—and I think he meant in the Potteries—that the need for a Bill was much lessened; that is a statement the accuracy of which I entirely deny. What has he done since the Debate of July last year, and the declarations that I have quoted? What of his own admission that under the present system he can only do the best he can "under rather difficult circumstances"? I will

only mention one point in the Lead Report. We are all in favour of the use of leadless glaze, but the potters have insisted on delay, and, therefore, we ought at once, if we follow the advice of Professor Thorpe and Dr. Oliver, to discourage the employment of women and girls in the dangerous branches. Raw lead is still being used in the potteries, in spite of the Report, and in spite of the Home Secretary's advice, in vast quantities; and we seem to be no nearer definite action than we were last year. With regard to the Phosphorus Report, which is also good, the same difficulty as to rules and arbitration has admittedly arisen. In the use of phosphorus we are behind other countries. The Report points out that international agreement may not be difficult to obtain in this case. Are any steps being taken to bring it about? In the Debate last year the Home Secretary said that with regard to phosphorus he was within measurable distance of trying special rules, leaving legislation to be considered in the future if found necessary. What has he done as regards phosphorus since the issue of the Report, and since the Debate last year? I hope that we shall not again be put off with mere dentistry, because we had that last year at full length. We need still more women inspectors. We need one, for example, in the Potteries, as was clearly shown last year, and where the inspection continues to be feeble. We need one in Birmingham and its neighbourhood for longer periods than at present, and I would quote upon that subject a letter from a leading trade unionist—

"A flying visit of a day or two is worse than useless, because it raises expectations which are never realised. If any good is to be done, we want someone here for at least two or three weeks. . . . Considering the enormous number of women workers in Birmingham and the district, a residence here for a few weeks of one of the lady inspectors is an absolute necessity."

The same view was put before the Committee last year, and I believe the Home Secretary will be supported in any conflict he may have with the Treasury in order to strengthen this Department. When we do see the Factories and Workshops Bill early next year—I trust we shall be promised—may we hope that it will be a really considerable measure, and contain, not only the abolition of arbitration on special rules, but such necessary clauses on other subjects as, for example,

proposals with regard to sweated districts, to remedy the complete breakdown of Section 5 of this Act of 1895? Much, however, may be done, even under the existing law, with regard to outworkers, and, generally speaking, it is certain that the existing laws, through the insufficiency of inspection, are not adequately enforced. Cases are continually quoted which inspection would remedy, and quoted even by Ministers. The Vice-President of the Council recently referred to "the champion boy, who is under six years of age, and works in a brickfield at brick-making." That brickfield is probably either a factory or a workshop, and the employment is illegal. As regards home work and sweated districts, the Bill of my hon. friend the Member for Berwickshire represents my minimum. May we trust that we shall have such provisions in that Government Bill promised by two Cabinet Ministers as one of the principal measures of the present year, and which we trust we may at least see next year? To delay the Bill beyond the early part of next session would be really inexcusable, but whatever may be the promises of the Government on that point—and I feel the Committee has a right to expect them—the delay in the annual Report is a matter which cannot be excused, and I shall therefore divide the Committee on the motion for the reduction. I move, Sir.

Motion made, and question proposed—

"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary of State."—(Sir Charles Dilke.)

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): I rise merely for the purpose of saying, with respect to certain recommendations made by the Committee presided over by the hon. Member for Berwickshire, that I hope the Home Secretary will not give effect to such of them as apply to the manufacture and use of grindstones and to the cutting of files by hand without a further inquiry in the districts which they affect. The recommendations of the Departmental Committee have created great misapprehension in these districts, and have not commanded the confidence of either the employers or the working classes. Let us assume, for the sake of argument, that this apprehension is quite unjustified, and that the recom-

mendations of the committee are perfectly right; it is nevertheless obvious that with this want of confidence existing any legislation based on these recommendations would not have that general and moral support from all classes concerned which can and can alone form the proper foundation for legislation of this kind. It is undoubtedly thought in the districts affected that all the evidence that ought to be taken had not been taken, and that certain of the recommendations, if carried out to the full extent, might go far to driving certain industries out of existence. In respect to the file-cutting industry, I would ask of the Home Secretary, in the interests of the working men no less than of the employers, that some kind of new inquiry should be held before any drastic proposal is applied to it. The question of the efficacy of the present procedure has been raised by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean. The weak point in the procedure by arbitration, undoubtedly, is that it gives power to legislate for large classes in this country to persons who might be totally irresponsible to the legislature. On the other hand, the procedure does contain as an essential part that which must be an essential part of any inquiry by which you arrive at legislative results—viz., that there must be some kind of local inquiry among the persons principally concerned. All I plead for in this case is that there should be a full and complete local inquiry. The inquiry in particular cases has not been so satisfactory and complete as to lead to a change in the conditions under which the trade has been carried on. I hope that the Home Secretary, in the course of giving effect to his administrative powers, without the aid of further legislation, will secure full and complete local inquiry.

*MR. L. R. HOLLAND (Tower Hamlets, Bow): I wish to join in the expression of regret which fell from the hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean that the report of the Inspector-General has not yet been put before the House. Surely it must be prejudicial to a proper consideration of the Home Office Vote that we have no acquaintance with the operation and administration of the Factory Laws during the last year. I should think that there can be no insuperable reason why the Report should be

seven months overdue, and I trust the Home Secretary will see that the Report is in future in the hands of Members in the month of May. If I remember aright, the discussion of last year turned mainly on two questions—namely, the evils associated with the use of raw lead and white phosphorus in the match industry. It was the opinion of many Members of the House that the criticism and the proposals made by my hon. friend the Member for Berwickshire and other hon. Members were perhaps too drastic and too sweeping, but every proposal and every criticism made during last year's debate have been more than justified in every particular by the invaluable reports which have been issued by Dr. Oliver and Dr. Thorpe. I should think that the Committee and the country must be grateful to my right hon. friend the Home Secretary for having directed such a valuable, minute, and authoritative inquiry into the evils of poisoning from the use of lead and phosphorus, and the remedies which may be applied to them. The contention last year of hon. Members who followed my friend the hon. Member for Berwickshire was, that as regards the lead trade, the age limit was too low, and that the employment of all young persons should be prohibited in dangerous trades; that either the use of raw lead should be prohibited, or that the process should be subjected to more stringent regulations than are applied to it now. Well, the report supported these contentions. Doctors Oliver and Thorpe recommend that the employment of young persons in the raw lead process should be forbidden, and a total prohibition of the raw lead process. This last recommendation will require legislation, as I imagine it cannot be effected by special rules. I confess that I am not sure whether the time is quite ripe for such legislation. However that may be, I do urge the Home Office, meanwhile, to insist that, at any rate, the same special regulations which are applied to dangerous trades scheduled under the Act of 1878 shall be applied to the use of the raw lead process, so far as to absolutely prohibit the employment of young persons where the process is in operation. Surely no person under the age of eighteen should be exposed at the outset to have his whole life wrecked by the diseases engendered in the raw lead process. The

application of more stringent regulations in the use of raw lead might encourage a higher standard of efficiency, by making it the interest of employers to discard the more dangerous process, and so be free to employ young persons. I was glad to hear the Home Secretary in answer to the right hon. Baronet attribute a considerable reduction in cases of disease to the operation of the special rules. In the course of the discussion last year the Home Secretary said that the special rules would have to be applied to 600 firms, that 450 had accepted the rules, and that 150 appealed to arbitration. I want to know whether it is the case that those employers who held out for arbitration have got the best terms, and have obtained the largest concessions. If that be so surely it is only another illustration of the absurdity of the arbitration clauses in the Act of 1891, that in the same district and in the same trade employers should be subjected to rules of varying stringency, and that the Home Office should acquiesce in that decision. It is probable that it is just in those works where the special rules in their integrity are most needed that these concessions have been made. Personally I trust the Home Secretary will see his way to fulfil the hopes he held out last session, and introduce legislation to get rid of this obstacle to the application of the special rules which the Home Office think it right to apply. I confess that it is a fair matter of complaint that legislation has not been introduced this session. At the same time, I would rather wait for a really substantial measure of reform than that the House should hurry through a slight proposal. Meanwhile, in many instances it is not so much legislation—though some legislation there ought to be—as efficient Home Office administration which is required, as, for instance, in the yellow phosphorus industry. I know it is proposed to prohibit the use of yellow phosphorus, as is done in Denmark and Switzerland. But I doubt the expediency of doing so. The demand for a strike-on-any-place match is very deep seated in England. I do not think it is established that there is any composition which does not contain phosphorus to make a strike-anywhere match which has been a commercial success. The trade of Denmark and Switzerland is not an export trade; but our trade, especially in yellow phosphorus matches,

is mainly export, and largely with the colonies, and the prohibition of yellow phosphorus in England, unless it be accompanied by international agreement, would be only to transfer the trade to Japan, Sweden, and Belgium. The inevitable deduction from the Report of Drs. Oliver and Thorpe is that the Home Office do not employ their existing powers in regard to this trade to full advantage. I do not know what impression that Report has made on the minds of hon. Members, but I confess it has made a most unpleasant impression on me, both as to the standard of efficiency required and as to the efficiency of inspection. The medical inspection required under the special rules of 1893 is inadequate. But the appliances for ventilation and the lavatory arrangements are to be such as are satisfactory in the opinion of the Home Office. Yet we read in the Report that the works are old, that the arrangements for mechanical ventilation are far behind those on the Continent, that in most of the English factories the protection in dangerous processes is absolutely incomplete, and that, with one exception—in the case of an American company which has a manufactory in England—the ventilation and lavatory arrangements are not comparable to those abroad. It comes to this, that in matters in which the health and safety of those engaged in this industry are intimately concerned, we have to go for precept and example to foreign countries. We boast ourselves as being pioneers in ventilation and lavatory accommodation, and yet we find our standard is infinitely below that which prevails in foreign countries; and the worst feature of the situation is that the standard is accepted by the Home Office and their inspectors. That is a matter which deserves the serious attention of the House. My hon. friend the Member for Berwickshire, in an article which he wrote, mentioned that the special rules of 1894 had broken-down in the Potteries district. The Employers' Association contested the statement of the hon. Member for Berwickshire, but only on the ground that the breakdown was not due to any inherent short-coming in the rules themselves, but to insufficient inspection; that it was manifestly impossible for one inspector adequately to overlook a district containing 10,000 women workers. Since that a new inspector has been appointed, and yet we cannot be sure that the inspection is

as efficient as we desire. The efficiency of the appliances on which the safety of the people employed is dependent, depends on the efficiency of the inspection. It is clear from the report that the standard of Home Office requirements in regard to the match industry has not been of a very high character. I know that the inspectors have got obstacles to contend with, and that frequently they are not properly supported by the magistrates when they bring breaches of the Factory Acts into court. But, making allowance for all that, it is clear that much of the inspection in the case of the Potteries and the match factories is not of the best. I cannot help regretting that the Home Secretary has not seen his way to invigorate the system of inspection by appointing a larger number of women inspectors, who would make reports to the chief district inspector. In the East End of London, for instance, where a large number of women and children are employed in the match industry, inspection would be more reliable if a woman inspector devoted her whole time to the work. In the Potteries districts, where 20,000 women and 12,000 children are at work, efficient inspection is of paramount importance. In view of the whole circumstances and conditions on which inspection is carried out, there could be no more fruitful subject of inquiry by a small Commission or a Select Committee, or even a Departmental Committee.

*CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, West): I desire to support the appeal made by the hon. Member for Bow to the Home Secretary, more especially in regard to the match industry. The extent of this industry is very great, inasmuch as matches to the value of £1,500,000 are yearly manufactured in this country. Of course, it will be stated that when we desire to make any improvement in the conditions under which these matches are made we have to consider the question of foreign competition. I am well aware of that. There are 450 match factories in Germany and Austria, and 60 in Norway and Sweden; and in one particular place in Sweden no fewer than 6,000 persons are engaged in this particular trade. Therefore the importance of an international agreement of some kind cannot be deprecated, and more especially because we are led to believe that this is a favourable moment to take action in the matter. I

am disposed to think that the suggestion which fell from the hon. Member for Bow has much in it, and that the rules which exist in this country, if stringently carried out under an increased staff of inspectors, would lead to a more desirable state of things than at present. It is acknowledged in every country that all the diseases from which workers suffer are due to the fumes of yellow phosphorus. But there is another form of disease—fatty degeneration of the kidneys—which is manifested in those who work at this trade in all countries, although it is not so apparent as other diseases. The soundness or otherwise of the general health of the workers has much to do with the matter. We know that where amorphous, or red phosphorus is used necrosis does not prevail, and that the condition of the young persons is frequently due to the lowness of wages. If the rules in regard to this trade could be made sufficiently stringent we should not have so many young persons employed. The principal disease amongst them is anaemia, and the one cure for that is large quantities of milk and a nourishing diet of flesh food. But that diet these young persons cannot provide themselves with out of their low wages. The next most fatal disease is phthisis, and that is brought about by bad ventilation. Better ventilation is what is demanded by inspectors in their reports. We know that a certain number of persons engaged in these trades can resist in a greater degree than others the approach of special diseases. It is found that those who have no taint of syphilis, phthisis, or anaemia can resist the deadly effects of the phosphorus fumes. Another point which ought to be taken into consideration is the very detrimental effect which these fumes have on women in a certain condition, and in Sweden there are very strict rules in regard to the employment of women in such condition. Manufacturers in every part of the world declare that they use special mixtures, which are not so deleterious as those of their neighbours. *Re* the special rules, they are so framed that by arbitration or private agreement, any manufacturer can drive a coach through them. As to the restriction; on the amount of yellow phosphorus which can be used, we know that in certain countries they have reduced it to 8 per cent., and in Holland it has been reduced to 5 per cent. I therefore suggest

Captain Norton.

to the right hon. the Home Secretary to make some rule in that direction. I come now to another point, namely, the great importance of alternative employment. It has been found in different factories that by giving, say, two weeks' employment in the dipping house—which is the worst part of the process—and then passing the workers on to other rooms for a few weeks, their health is preserved for a much longer period. As regards the prohibition of young persons of fourteen or fifteen years of age, it is almost impossible to control them, and therefore I suggest the desirability of prohibiting any person under eighteen years of age from being employed in this industry at all. It is well known that it is especially at this period—from twelve and thirteen years of age to seventeen and eighteen years of age—that the teeth are most likely to go. A young person may be taken into a factory whose teeth are in perfect condition, and within a year a large number of these teeth may be found to be unsound. Therefore it is the duty of the Home Office to protect these young persons from the risks peculiar to these poisonous fumes. But perhaps the most important question of all is that of ventilation. This is a matter over which the Home Office distinctly can, by means of its inspectors, exercise control, and it is known that the introduction of a certain arrangement for ventilation in the dipping room will, with almost certainty, act as a preventive as regards phossy jaw. There is another matter that the right hon. Gentleman might favourably consider, and that is the desirability of greater stringency in medical examination. There should be a medical examination for all persons desiring to enter these trades, in order that it may be seen whether they have any tendency to the diseases to which I have referred. Then, again, there should be a periodical—say a monthly—visitation of all persons engaged in these factories. In connection with that I would suggest the appointment, not only of a surgeon, who ought to be a paid official of the Government, but also of a dentist, who should likewise be a paid official. If these two officers made periodical visits to the factories, I am persuaded that by the diseases in every case being taken in time, a large amount of suffering might be obviated. I have already referred to the carelessness of workers. It seems to me

that there is a tendency amongst all work-people to shirk the operation of washing, simply in order that they may gain greater time for their meals or amusements, more especially when it comes to leaving the factory in the daytime. I venture to suggest that if an extra ten minutes were given for the express purpose of ablutions, there would not be so much difficulty in enforcing this rule. There should be, moreover, every facility for all engaged in this industry to obtain a constant supply of antiseptic mouth-wash. Another point of importance is that instead of the operatives taking their meals anywhere and anyhow, they should be obliged to take them in some dining-room, which should be fairly and comfortably heated. I must say that of all the points which have been brought to the right hon. Gentleman's notice, none appears to me to be of greater importance than the appointment of a woman factory inspector. I remember being present at a meeting of the deputation which waited upon the right hon. Gentleman in connection with the work in the potteries, and this seemed to be most strongly brought out by all present; and the same holds good as regards the match trade. There is yet another point, and that is the desirability of the extension, in some measure, of the Workmen's Compensation Act. I contend that the workers in these trades have as much right to come under the Act as those who suffer from accidents, for all these diseases to which they are liable are, as a matter of fact, accidental, and distinctly peculiar to these particular trades. We know that many of these unfortunate young persons are obliged to undergo operation after operation. Several cases have been brought to my notice where persons have undergone an operation three or four times, and have had portions of their jaw removed. In some cases they have had a great number of teeth removed; in fact, they have undergone great agony, and in many cases have as good as lost a limb. Well, some rule ought to be framed which would give them the same compensation, where due care has not been taken by the employers, as in the case of workmen who sustain accidents. The next point which I would like to suggest is that there should be some substitution of less dangerous materials in the workshops; and if the Home Office were more stringent in this respect, it would have the result of

stimulating invention. If manufacturers found that they could not go on in their old way without sufficient consideration for those they employ, they would undoubtedly, considering the great advance which has been made in chemistry of recent years, discover some different material which would be equally suitable for their purpose, and at the same time less deleterious to the health of their employees. In referring for a few moments to another industry, namely, the jam-making industry, which is connected in some parts of the country with the fish industry, I regret to say that the manufacturers engaged in these trades have taken advantage of the leniency of the Government for the purpose of employing the same individual to work in both trades, and thereby over-ride the wishes of this House and at the same time the regulations of the Home Office. In London, the jam industry is not only a very large but a constantly-developing one, and I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that in one particular case, to my own knowledge, in the south of London, a state of things exists which is deplorable. The persons who suffer most are the young daughters of the very poorest of the working classes in South London. I am given to understand, however, that we shall be afforded an opportunity of dealing with this question on Monday week, and therefore I will not trouble the right hon. Gentleman with any further reference to the subject at the present moment.

*CAPTAIN GREVILLE (Bradford, E.) : In connection with this Vote, I should like to bring to the notice of the Committee, and of the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary in particular, the steady—I might even describe it as the alarming—increase in the cases of anthrax among the operatives engaged in the wool trade. In bringing these statistics before the notice of the House, I may say that they only refer to the years 1896, 1897, 1898, and the first half of the current year. I have taken these three and a-half years by reason of the fact, which is doubtless within the memory of the right hon. Gentleman, that in 1897—it was under his supervision—a new and revised set of rules was brought in for the protection of the wool sorter. Now, in 1896 the number of cases was three, in 1897 it had increased to nine,

and in 1898 the number of reported cases to the Home Office had mounted up to sixteen. For the half-year ending the 30th June, 1899, the cases of disease reported number thirteen. Taking that as the proportion for the year it will at once be noticed that the cases reported have doubled in number. The disease is of an alarming character, because, in the majority of cases, it is fatal. I have not been able to obtain the exact number of fatal cases during this year, but we may take it as a rough average that certainly half the cases are of a fatal nature. I would, therefore, ask the right hon. Gentleman if he cannot see his way to revise the special rules brought forward in 1897, and in doing so I wish to cast no reflection on the right hon. Gentleman, because, to my personal knowledge, he devoted a great deal of time and consideration to them in consultation with representatives of the employers and of the operatives engaged in the work. I desire to see the rules, which, I understand, only apply to wool-sorters, extended to wool-combers, and, at the same time, made more stringent. This is a matter to which inquiry should be made, either by a Department Committee or in some other way, and as it is one which affects the main bulk of my constituents, I feel certain that the House will pardon the liberty I have taken in drawing attention to the subject.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley): I desire, within the limits of two or three sentences, to associate myself with the complaint which has been made by the right hon. Baronet opposite that no legislation dealing with the question of rules has been introduced by my right hon. friend the Home Secretary. It will be remembered that a year ago a Debate of very considerable importance took place upon this Vote, the principal feature of that Debate consisting in the fact that not only the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary, but also his predecessor in office joined in expressing the opinion that the system of rules formulated in the Home Office was inferior, as a protection for the workers, to an Act passed by this House. The reasons were made clear. The first was that the Department in framing the rules did not and could not possibly have the benefit of the debates and discussions on both sides as representing employers and em-

ployed ; and secondly, that any rule made by the Home Office is always subject to emasculation by the employers in the process of arbitration. The latter point was, to my mind, an extremely serious one. It seemed to me that it was pitiful—almost humiliating—to find two right hon. Gentlemen, both of them at one time or other Home Secretaries, uniting in this House in proclaiming their impotency to deal with important questions of this kind, because their rules were subject to emasculation at the hands of some of the worst class of employers. That having been the opinion expressed by my right hon. friend with his usual clearness and cogency, a hope was entertained not only by the right hon. Baronet and his friends, but by many who are interested in these questions on this side of the House, that legislation on this subject would be made one of the important features of this session. Well, what has happened ? We have had legislation introduced into this House, and plenty of it, but we have not had legislation upon this particular question, and I desire to emphasise my disappointment, and, I venture to say, the disappointment of my constituents, that this question has not received attention at the hands of the Government. Now, just one word upon the matter of lead poisoning in the Potteries. There is no difference of opinion on the question which the hon. Member for East Bradford, upon whose speech I offer him my hearty congratulations, has introduced. In the district represented by the hon. Member and myself, the dangerous trade of sorting wools has been grappled with by a joint committee of all the large employers and employed, who agreed together in debates amongst themselves, and who afterwards came before the Home Office and Home Secretary with rules which they had formulated for the protection of the workers. I regret to find that the rules have not been as effective as it was expected they would be. There you have a case in which the rules were made, not in the secrecy of the Home Office, not merely with the knowledge and skill and experience of inspectors advising the Home Office, but with all the skill and experience of the workers and the employers and their representatives. Yet they have not turned out to be thoroughly effective in reducing the cases of fatal illness ; but here we have

Captain Grenville.

only sixteen cases in the course of 1898, and thirteen cases in the first half of the present year, while in the lead industry there are 160 cases, a reduced number which the Home Secretary appears to regard as in some degree satisfactory. If in the textile districts it is found desirable and necessary that a special effort should be made to deal with a dangerous trade, which, after all, only produces twenty-six serious cases, how much more necessary is it that more drastic measures should be taken for a trade which produces at the rate of 160 cases in six months, or 320 in a year? Reasoning from that analogy, I believe that the lead industry requires the most specific and careful attention of the Home Secretary, and it is in the hope that he will recognise that there is a very strong feeling on both sides of the House that I beg him to consider the advisability of next session introducing a Bill which shall deal comprehensively with so great and important a social question.

*MR. FLOWER: I only want, in a single sentence, to associate myself with the observations of my hon. friend and colleague the Member for East Bradford in regard to the increase in the cases of anthrax in the wool trade. But I should not like the right hon. Gentleman to suppose that the rules which he was good enough to sanction some few years ago have proved entirely inadequate to grapple with the very serious evil which they were intended to remedy. Although sixteen is a large number of cases, I believe the increase is due to the fact that of recent years the experts who have devoted themselves to medical researches into the question have been able to locate the very subtle disease of anthrax with greater accuracy than they could a few years ago. I would also like to suggest to the Home Secretary in that connection that the Yorkshire College of Preventive Medicine at Leeds is doing a very great and important work in endeavouring to locate this disease, and I trust that that body will always receive sympathetic treatment at the hands of the Government. There is another matter which I hope he will consider, and that is not merely with regard to the wool-sorting but also with regard to the wool-combing. My hon. friend the Member for the Shipley Division spoke of the harmony which pre-

vails between the Bradford Chamber of Commerce and the Bradford Trade Council with regard to the rules for the prevention of anthrax. I am glad that this has been so in the past, and I sincerely trust it will continue to be so in the future. If it is not so I trust my right hon. friend the Home Secretary will not wait until there is complete unanimity and agreement upon all the many points which are raised upon this matter, but that he will endeavour to extend the sphere of his rules not only to the process of wool-sorting but also to some of the processes of wool-combing.

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Laneashire Ince): I hope the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary will give his attention to the question of the fees of medical witnesses who are brought to Quarter Sessions. They are at present very low, and I am afraid that the public service rather suffers in consequence.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): This is the first occasion on which the House has had an opportunity of discussing questions which must be interesting to all who are concerned in labour matters.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present; House counted, and, forty Members being found present—

MR. TENNANT: At an earlier stage of this evening's proceedings the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Hallam Division of Sheffield accused the Committee over which I had the honour to preside of not giving to both sides adequate opportunities for giving their opinions upon the matters we had to investigate. That accusation is unfounded. We invited the Trades Council, and inserted in the local papers a general invitation to witnesses to state their views either in writing or by oral evidence. This being the first opportunity for discussing these questions since July 1898, it is very little short of a scandal that this Vote should not have been the first Order on the Paper. It was shown in the previous Debate that the system of inspection of factories in this country had so far broken down as to demand either an inquiry or some system of reorganisation. Any casual observer of the Estimates for this year

will see that there is about to take place a reorganisation of the Factory Department. I congratulate the Government on the increase of staff they are about to make. That increase comprises one deputy chief inspector—I should like to ask when that appointment will be made, and upon whom the office is to be conferred—a medical inspector, whose appointment was announced last year; one assistant examiner, fifteen inspectors of the ordinary class of varying degrees, ten inspectors' assistants, and two lady inspectors.

MR. DRAGE (Derby): May I ask the hon. Gentleman from what document he is quoting?

MR. TENNANT: From the Estimates before the House. The Secretary of State said last year that he had already begun to find out that the special rules were not likely to be effective, and that it would be a matter for consideration whether it was possible by special rules to arrive at the end which all desired. From this and other statements, we are entitled to assume that the right hon. Gentleman wishes to abolish the system of arbitration with regard to the special rules in the pottery trade. Those special rules, admittedly feeble than were desirable, have had to go through the emasculating process of arbitration at the hands of the employers, and have emerged feeble than they went in. An important event during the past year has been the issue of the report of Doctors Oliver and Thorpe. We who have taken up a strong attitude upon these matters are justified in saying that every line of that report directly corroborates every position and argument we have urged. We diagnosed this disease for you, and recommended certain specifics upon that diagnosis. You thought fit to appoint your own experts, and they have recommended precisely the same nostrums. That being so, we have a right to demand to be told what steps you have taken to give effect to those recommendations. I am aware that the right hon. Gentleman has issued the circular which has been referred to, asking the employers what they are going to do; but I cannot help thinking the Home Office has been almost too kind to these people. There are, in the Pottery district, a certain number of employers who act as a sort of

r. Tennant.

anchor or drag upon any reforming energy or zeal which may be shown among other employers. The course which has been pursued is not the way to treat people of that kind. How much good has been got from the spontaneous action of the employers? The Report states that the experts who conducted the inquiry were forced to the conclusion that very little of an effective character had been even attempted. These gentlemen have now had six years in which to consider what they are going to do, and, so far as I am aware, they have done nothing at all. If further proof were required of the attitude which these gentlemen are inclined to adopt, it could be found in the arbitration of last autumn, when the special rules were made even feebler than they originally were. To take only one point. In regard to washing conveniences, it was laid down in the special rules that the employers should provide one basin for every five persons, and that each basin should have a tap. The employers resolutely refused to concede that simple and homely method of preserving the health and lives of their employees, but said they would only have one tap for two basins. Employers who are capable of adopting an attitude of that kind are not employers whom you should deal with in this courteous and considerate fashion. I have alluded to this circular, but what has been the answer? The answer amounts to this: "We don't want to do anything in a hurry." Already the employers have had six years, and yet they say that that is not long enough, and they must have more time. I maintain that if a case is wanted against the cumbrous machinery of the law, in this trade alone, the pottery industry has given you as good a case as you could possibly desire. But I do not wish to base my case on this one topic. I will pass on, if I am not detaining the House, to another trade. I will give as an illustration the aerated water trade. The Committee upon this subject issued their Report in 1896. The special rules as they left the Home Office were excellent, but owing to the threat of arbitration, certain concessions were made, and those concessions, I am afraid, have resulted in the greatest harm to the people employed; for I find that, in one factory alone, during one year, there were five workers who had to have their eyes removed—either one or both eyes. In one

London hospital in one week there were three workers under treatment, who each had to have an eye taken out. There are many other instances mentioned in the statistics presented to Parliament, and I find that accidents of this kind in factories in the bottling of aerated waters have not diminished, but rather increased, and these accidents are mainly attributable to conditions which could not have existed had the rules insisted upon by this Committee been adopted and enforced. That is a very strong case against this system, for if the rules had remained in force as they were issued at first, at least a dozen—eight of whom I have mentioned—of these unfortunate workers would never have lost their eyes. Now those are two particular trades in which special rules have been instituted and enforced; but I would ask the Committee, what about those other trades which have no safeguards of this kind? What of the trades where bronzing and paper staining is carried on, and lithographic work? The evils of these trades are admitted, but, unfortunately, the workers there receive no protection. What of the trades in which naphtha is used, in dry cleaning and in india rubber processes? I could mention other trades, but those I have mentioned could be dealt with without any fresh legislation. Such industries as electric generating works, locomotive factories, and the use of inflammable paints on board ships would require an Act of Parliament to deal with; but the particular industries to which I have alluded could be dealt with at once. I really think that there is absolutely no excuse for leaving the lives of the people in those particular trades in jeopardy so long. We may assume that nothing has been done, because the Home Office desires to avoid the threats of these employers of labour being carried into effect. There is just one more instance in the accumulation of arguments against this system. So long ago as 1893 the Committee appointed by my right hon. friend the late Home Secretary made a Report to the effect that in their opinion many old factories were unfit for occupation, and that there should be some authority, on the same principle as is the case with dwelling-houses, to declare them unfit for occupation. Professors Thorpe and Oliver agree with those remarks, and they say that it will be impossible for any reform of the

standard we have set up to be carried out in factories unless some authority is created by which you will be able to close these old factories. How can you possibly expect that you will get reforms of this drastic nature carried out, when you find employers firmly refusing to assent to special rules in minor matters, such as the provision of one tap to each washing basin? So long as you have this bogey before you of the power of rejection by the employers so long will your hands be tied, and so long will it be impossible for you to carry out what is necessary. It is six years ago since the Committee made that Report, and is six years not long enough for the Home Office to make up its mind as to what is to be done? We do not doubt the good intentions of the Home Office, but have we not had almost enough of this delay? Possibly, the workers in the Potteries themselves are even more tired than we are of this constant reiteration of good intentions, and we demand that the Government should introduce something drastic and which will be really effective.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I represent a large number of manufacturers and employees in three large pottery districts, and I say that it is no use shutting your eyes to the real facts of the case, as appears to have been done by hon. Members opposite who have already spoken on this subject. We must have some regard in considering this question to foreign competition. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean has criticised the operation of the special rules, but my experience of them is that they have been very successful, and that they have given satisfaction to both employers and employed. At all events, I represent three large pottery towns upon this subject, and I do not think that many of the hon. Members who have spoken represent a single pottery district.

MR. TENNANT: I have no pottery district within 100 miles of my constituency, and therefore, I have no axe to grind myself.

MR. COGHILL: I hope the hon. Member opposite does not accuse me of having an axe to grind, although I do represent three pottery districts. Hon.

Members have complained of the want of more special rules, but I think everybody in the Potteries will be thankful if there are no more special rules. We want the special rules we have got now to have an opportunity of working, and the employers do not want the trade which they have got driven out of the market altogether. If you abolish these rules you will be sure to throw out of employment several thousand workmen. Reference has been made to the report of Drs. Oliver and Thorpe, but they are not practical men, and this is not a question of theory, but one of practical application. Drs. Oliver and Thorpe do not pretend to have a practical knowledge of the pottery trade. If the Committee will allow me to say so, I am bound to say that in my opinion the House of Commons is the very worst tribunal for discussing the subject of the china earthenware trade. With regard to the use of fritted lead, the real question is whether its use will get rid of all the evils which are complained of. On this point we have the testimony of a great Swedish manufacturer — Mr. Armstrong—who has declared that the use of fritted lead will remedy all the evils connected with the manufacture of earthenware and chinaware. One or two speakers have spoken upon the question of the employment of young persons, but I may say that the manufacturers are not unwilling to meet the views of the Home Office in this respect, for they are perfectly prepared to have a system of monthly examinations of all workers who come in contact with the lead. There are a large number of women and young persons employed, and if their labour is dispensed with the cost of production will be enormously increased and the trade will go to the Continent, and these women and children will be deprived of the means of obtaining their livelihood. With reference to the precautions to be taken, one of the greatest difficulties in regard to lead poisoning is to get the operatives to use the means already within their reach. They always want to get away from their work in a hurry, and they are very reluctant to spend the necessary time, and they do not take the trouble which they ought to do in the matter. Dr. Oliver called attention to this matter in his Report. Surely you cannot expect people to acquire a knowledge of the use of fritted lead all at once.

Mr. Coghill.

MR. TENNANT : Fritted lead was recommended in 1892, over six years ago.

MR. COGHILL : The manufacturers are prepared to adopt the system of fritted lead, and that will practically free the trade from all the evils which the employees suffer from. In the Potteries I am bound to say that we are surprised that we have so many friends in this House from pastoral districts. We have friends from all over the kingdom—from England, Scotland, and Wales; we have the hon. Member for Berwickshire, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean. Now I represent the views of three large Pottery towns, and I do not think that I have ever presented a single petition with regard to this question of lead poisoning from those towns, and I cannot recall having received a single letter of complaint with regard to this matter. I have gone about a good deal in my constituency, and I have had the honour of being returned to Parliament by these workmen, and although this is a burning question and a great grievance in the eyes of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean and the hon. Member for Berwickshire, it has not yet occurred to the workmen in these Pottery towns that they are oppressed. I wish to record this fact, that the operatives and the employers are upon the best possible terms throughout the country. The manufacturers are not all millionaires, and they try to do their best in very difficult circumstances, for competition is very keen and prices are very low. I think it is only right that I should mention these facts, and I hope there will be no repetition of these cruel aspersions against certain employers which, I am sorry to say, have been indulged in by some hon. Members opposite.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derby, Ilkeston) : While I resided in the Midlands, in the district in which I lived I saw frequent examples of the effect of lead poisoning, and I have always been very much impressed with what I saw with reference to these dangerous trades. In dealing with this question I think the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary has had a very difficult and delicate task to

perform, and I recognise all the difficulties of his position. No doubt the hon. Member opposite has received representations from manufacturers in one direction, but he does not get representations to the same extent from the workpeople, because they are not, as a rule, the people who make the loudest noise. The workpeople are very often influenced by the feeling in the trade, and they are very often not sufficiently well organised to raise anything like a serious agitation about their calling. Then, again, the people themselves are very often not aware of the dangers of their trade, and, therefore, I think it is the duty of the Government to exercise a sort of paternal care. What I regret more than anything about this matter, both as to lead poisoning and the evils of the phosphorus trade, is that the right hon. Gentleman has not been more speedy in his action. I think something might have been done since the report of Drs. Thorpe and Oliver was presented, especially in view of the remarkable developments in the phosphorus trade during the autumn of last year. This question of lead poisoning is one of great difficulty. It is a disease which does not appeal very strongly to the operatives, for it is a poison which is slow and insidious in its progress, and which enters the system unknowingly, so that the persons affected go on working day after day, and do not notice any difference in the state of their health until the symptoms are suddenly developed, and the people are then reduced to a state of comparative helplessness and sometimes impotence during the remainder of their mortal lives. These are dangerous trades, and they ought to be looked after with the most scrupulous care by those in authority. In this report of Drs. Thorpe and Oliver there is a series of figures which tells us that out of 3,000 or 4,000 operatives there were in three years nearly 1,100 suffering from lead poisoning. That is a very large percentage, and it is a very serious commentary upon the dangers of the trade, and it is one which ought to stir the Government into action. This disease especially affects the young and promising lives of the country, for the elder people are not affected to the same degree. It is the young women and persons of tender years who are engaged in the dangerous processes who are affected the most, more especially the dipping process. Now, the

right hon. Gentleman belongs to a Party which is greatly interested in the extension of the Empire and the development of the English speaking people. I desire to remind him that while these large notions of Imperialistic development are going on the birth rate of this country is going down, and if this goes on we shall not be able to carry on these large schemes of Colonial enterprise. These young women—the future mothers of the working population—are so affected by this insidious poison that they cease to be prolific, and they transmit the effects of the disease which they have contracted to their unfortunate offspring. Therefore, the diseases caused by these trades not only affect this but also future generations. It is a national question which deserves national consideration. I think we have, at all events, to thank the right hon. Gentleman for one thing, for he is the cause of this very valuable Report presented to the House by Doctors Thorpe and Oliver. I think that Report ought to take away from his mind any lingering doubt as to the necessity for immediate action, for the Report goes into the whole question, gives a series of experiments, and comes to conclusions which are not by any means doubtful. The Report points out many facts with a plainness and directness which ought to carry conviction, and the more one looks over this Report, the more one is struck by the remarkable paragraph in which it is said that the day is practically at hand when lead glazes will cease to be used. I hope all difficulties will soon be overcome. I do not ask the right hon. Gentleman to go so far as to forbid lead glazes, but the Report says further that all the processes can be performed in a less dangerous and comparatively innocent form. According to these scientific experts, the time has come when we should insist upon fritted lead being used, and then we shall have a chance of avoiding all these horrors in the way of diseases which develop into blindness and paralysis, and which occur from lead. If this were done it would at least preserve the health of the working population, who would be able to carry on their work under conditions which would tend to the well-being of the country. I think the right hon. Gentleman should press those conclusions on the manufacturers, and I hope he will not allow many months to pass before he

insists upon the manufacturers adopting the less harmful processes. I also hope that the Government Departments will use their influence in this matter by purchasing all their materials from places where they are produced in a manner which will not be harmful to the producer, and where the processes employed are not injurious to the people engaged in the trade. I quite think that the right hon. Gentleman might at least take steps to instruct all these workpeople as to the very serious importance of cleanliness in this matter. The industrial population of these districts are apt to be careless about these points of detail, but if they were well disciplined the amount of cleanliness would be much greater, and if the inspectors insisted upon the means for cleanliness being supplied in no niggardly fashion in every factory, I think the people would be more inclined to use them. From personal experience, I can say that in many of these districts the standard of cleanliness and ventilation has gone up considerably, and in a recent visit which I paid to the Potteries I was very much struck with the many improvements made. I believe that the manufacturers themselves are now showing an inclination to abolish these evils, and it only requires a little firm pressure in order to remove them altogether. If these people are inspected by medical men periodically, the signs of lead poisoning can be easily detected very early in the disease. I took the trouble to look at some of these people when in the Potteries, and in some of them I distinctly saw traces of lead poisoning; now if I had been a medical inspector in the way I suggest, I should have had these persons taken out of that particular occupation and put to another which would be more conducive to health, and not have left them subject to this insidious disease. The medical inspection must be done frequently and thoroughly. If the right hon. Gentleman would adopt these suggestions—frequent and adequate medical inspection, and encouraging, so far as possible, in young persons habits of cleanliness in these industries—he would reduce the serious injury which is done to the population in the Potteries and other places where these dangerous industries are engaged in. I am disappointed that the right hon. Gentleman has not done more with regard to the distressing state of things exposed

Sir W. Foster.

last year in respect to the phosphorus match factories. I hope he will do something this year, having regard to the fact that there is a form of phosphorus which is harmless, and so do away with the use of the more deadly substance. The disease arising from the use of yellow phosphorus is even more preventable than lead poisoning, and I hope that in the course of the next few months the right hon. Gentleman will do something to do away with phossy jaw and other similar horrors. To do so is not so much a matter of Statecraft as a question of common humanity. The right hon. Gentleman ought to see to it and do something worthy of the age in which he lives for the lessening of human suffering and the prolongation of human life.

*MR. DRAGE: During the last twelve months, while expecting the introduction of a Bill, we have not pressed upon the Home Secretary very much the necessity for reform with regard to these matters, but there has been discussed the subject of reorganisation both of the women's and the men's departments so far as concerns inspection, and we have pressed upon the Home Secretary other work, such as the publication of the reports like that of Doctors Thorpe and Oliver on the conditions of labour abroad. So I think we must bear our own part of the responsibility of any delay that may have taken place in the publication of the reports of the inspectors at home. My hon. friend on my right, who showed so much technical knowledge of the state of this trade in the Potteries, said the employers in that district had agreed on the abolition of raw lead. That is very pleasant news to this House, and I hope the Home Secretary will take note of it, and that in the Bill we all look forward to next year the abolition of raw lead will take a prominent place. But if we are to place any reliance upon the reports of the specialists of this country and of Belgium and France and other Continental countries, the abolition of raw lead by itself will not be sufficient. There are many different kinds of fritted lead, and what we have to do is to get the right kind. I am informed that, roughly speaking, in the fritted lead used in Staffordshire the percentage of lead oxide ranged from 13 to 24 per cent. In the Government factories in France and other Continental countries the percentage is from 2 to 8. The Committee will

see at once, therefore, that the nature of the fritted lead is a very important factor in the situation. Further, leadless glazes can be used for much ordinary white ware. The real truth is that leadless glazes need a higher temperature—that is, a greater consumption of coal and more expense. In France ware is fired at a higher temperature, and a smaller percentage of lead is used. If lead is used at all it should be in the form of a double silicate of lead. This would abolish lead poisoning, because double silicate of lead is not soluble in the acids of the human body, such as the gastric juice, perspiration, and saliva. Now there are certain reforms upon which when we come to deal with this question we shall require the support of hon. Gentlemen opposite, for they will be opposed very strongly by the trade. One of those is the total exclusion of girls under the age of eighteen years from the dipping sheds, and I hope hon. Gentlemen will bear this in mind. At that tender age girls are absolutely reckless of danger. Between the ages of eighteen and thirty women by their constitutions are peculiarly susceptible to this disease, and girls of a younger age still more so. In France the employment of girls under 14 is prohibited, though this, I fear, is not strictly carried out. When the Home Secretary brings in his Bill I hope he will bear this recommendation in mind, because it will have to be carried out, and that regulations will be made with regard to this matter. There is another point of which no mention has been made, and which I venture to press upon the Home Secretary, and that is whether this House is prepared to go as far in the coming legislation as to prevent married women, under certain conditions, being employed at all. It is, of course, a subject very difficult to enter into, but I respectfully ask the Home Secretary to bear that in mind also. Above all, there should also be a complete and constant system of ventilation. This is a point of the utmost importance. In Belgium, at Ghent, where this matter has been particularly attended to, there have been, I am told, absolutely no cases of lead poisoning. The right hon. Gentleman opposite has alluded to cleanliness, and has referred to water and appliances for washing, but he has said nothing with regard to a most important point, and that is meal rooms. Although these seem

to be provided, they are not properly ventilated and warmed, and the result is that the workpeople crowd into the only place where warmth is to be found — that is the work-room. In fact, the whole question of the construction of good factories and the demolition of bad factories requires more attention than it has hitherto received. Another matter which the Home Secretary must bear in mind is that of the registration and inspection, which must be systematic; and I may add that it is a disappointment to find that it has not yet been possible to detail a woman inspector for the Pottery district alone. A difficult point which the Government have to grapple with is the independence of the medical man. No one is likely to take a higher view of men in that profession than I am, but we must bear in mind that those who have to earn their living under these circumstances are very loth to undergo an inspection which must be systematic under new rules, and the employers in the district are also often averse to a change. The position of a doctor who depends for a livelihood on such a community is therefore no easy one. What I may suggest to the Home Secretary is that he may see his way to make medical men absolutely independent of private practice. Two years ago we passed an Act in this House for compensating workmen for accidents, and Ministers abroad are day by day and month by month having brought home to them the fact that those engaged in dangerous trades ought to be entitled to compensation for injury to health in the same way as others for injury to life and limb by accident. It has taken me a long time to come to that view, but year by year we are brought face to face with the solid fact that there are evils which call for remedy, and one sees no remedy but an extension of the Compensation Act. The Committee has heard at great length from the hon. Member for Bow and Bromley the report of the Doctors Thorpe and Oliver, and the reasons why we have not been able to arrive at the common action which some of us thought we might have taken last year. It is to be hoped, however, that the right hon. Gentleman will be able next year to find some means of remedying those evils. I hope that by the Bill of next year the unfortunate system of arbitration will be abolished once and for ever.

As it exists at present it involves a preference for backward employers over those who are more enlightened. In regard to the phosphorus trades I hope that at the Conference which is to be held next year in Paris in connection with the Exhibition, the representatives of Great Britain will succeed in arriving at some practical suggestion for international action such as I suggested last year. No "strike anywhere" match has yet been discovered which is satisfactory from a commercial point of view, and total prohibition of yellow phosphorus is impossible without international action. But, at any rate, if that fails we can learn something from Russia, who has succeeded to a great extent in expelling deleterious matches from her boundaries by placing an extra duty on them. I admit that this is not a form of action which is popular in this country, but if the worst comes to the worst it is a measure which we may find ourselves obliged to adopt. In the report of Dr. Oliver special practical suggestions are given, which may well be considered by manufacturers, such as the greater separation of departments, change of occupation for workers, and a substitution of machinery for obsolete methods. In a factory in the neighbourhood of Liverpool the introduction of new machinery has solved the whole question of the evils arising from the use of yellow phosphorus; and that is a fact which should not be lost sight of in any Bill which may be introduced. Further, the amount of yellow phosphorus to be used might be restricted as in Belgium. Better provision might be made for ventilation, as well as gargles, overalls, and proper vestiary accommodation. Better provision should also be made for inspection of teeth and general health. But there is also another question to be dealt with, and that is the inspection by the Home Office with regard to children. We have passed a Bill with regard to half-timers, and I did not attempt to press my views upon the House because I desired to see that measure become law; but it is no use for this House to pass the half-timers' Bill if we are not prepared to go further in this matter. The Inspectors' reports show that the Half-timers Bill may simply mean that the children will pass from controlled into uncontrolled trades, such as errand boys, newspaper boys, household drudges, etc. What is wanted is better provision for getting children to

school, better legislation and administration as to uncontrolled trades, better inspection by certifying surgeons, and, finally, a simplification and unification of the law as to the employment of children. At present there are the Education Acts, the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Coal Mines Acts, the Metalliferous Mines Acts, and the Act for the Regulation of Casual Employment in Streets and Public-houses. These Acts overlap, are inconsistent, and conflict. They refer to children of different ages, they differ as to the age up to which children are allowed to work full time, and they differ as to the standard of education necessary for exemption. The administration of the law with regard to inspection is at present a scandal to the country. The inspection of these children is placed under the Education Department, the Local Government Board, the Home Office, the local authorities, and I am informed that even the Board of Trade has something to do with the administration. I have not attempted to refer to the many other abuses as to the administration of such Acts as the Canal Boats Acts and the laws referring to Poor Law children which I have now for three years been pressing on the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues. I will only now express the hope that the whole question of the law for the protection of children will receive the consideration of the Cabinet, as it is a disgrace to this House and to the country.

*MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) : The speech of the hon. Member for Stoke, and that which we have just listened to from the hon. Member for Derby, are widely divergent. The first is opposed to any change, whilst the other is sympathetically reminiscent of the Labour Commission, but both hon. Gentlemen were under the impression that foreign competition would have to be considered, but both agreed that the efficiency and administration of the Factory Acts would have to be reorganised. The hon. Member for Stoke said foreign competition lowered prices, and that the lowering of prices had reduced both masters and men to a condition under which they were very sensitive of any interference with their business. I always think I hear that blessed word "competition." It has been said, "O Liberty, what crimes have been committed in thy name!" So it is with

Mr. Drage.

"foreign competition." I do not know of any evil, from the slave trade down to phossy jaw, that has not invoked foreign competition on its behalf. For my part, if I had to choose whether 4,700 men, women, and children are to be liable to these horrible diseases, or whether the trade should go to China or Japan, I would hold up both my hands against these trades being retained in this country. When the hon. Member for Stoke was talking about foreign competition in regard to matches and the pottery industries, the hon. Member for Derby said that foreign countries were far behind Great Britain in factory administration, but in the next sentence said that married women were prohibited altogether from engaging in these industries in Switzerland and Sweden, and he asked if these countries could do that what about Great Britain. When the hon. Member claims for Great Britain a monopoly of vigorous factory legislation and administration, I admit that they are relatively the best in the world. But I hold that they are not good enough, and that even in Great Britain and Ireland we have scandalous evasions of the Factory Acts, even by rich employers of labour. If proof of that is wanted go to the Shawfield Chemical Works, owned by Lord Overtoun, the champion philanthropist, who praises God and weeps over the woes of the heathen, but keeps his workpeople under the most loathsome conditions. There are other instances in which powerful employers do evade the Factory Acts. The hon. Member for Derby said that a meal room was essential for the workpeople in certain employments, and showed that it could be provided in practice. I had the pleasure the other day of going down to inspect Cadbury and Co.'s great chocolate works, and I can frankly say that I never saw a factory so well appointed, or with meal rooms so well ventilated, although I had better couple that with the works of Messrs. Lever at Birkenhead, and other employers. If these firms can do that for healthy trades like the manufacture of soap and chocolate, I see on reason why it should not be done in the most dangerous trades, even if it is not so profitable. If we are within a measurable distance of losing our trade by factory legislation, as is said, in every industry where the Americans are our superiors, they are our superiors, not because of an evasion of the

Factory Acts, but by employing men at a higher rate of wages than we pay them. It is not by evasion of the Factory Acts that the situation is to be saved. If so, let the Home Office and the House of Commons call at once an International Conference, at which there should be fixed a maximum number of hours' work, a minimum wage, and a minimum amount of sanitary and physical conditions laid down, below which no nation should be allowed to go in respect to employment in dangerous trades. The hon. Member for Stoke adduced the same old arguments which were adduced here sixty or seventy years ago in favour of slavery. He said that since he had been Member for Stoke he had had no complaints either from masters or men, and that they would prefer to have things as they are. All I can say is that if these men are morally and physically so degenerated at the present time that they prefer things as they are, then I would advise him to select a better constituency than the one he now represents. It is not creditable either to the masters or men that they should be content with the present condition of things after the Report of Dr. Oliver and Dr. Thorpe. I can remember when I was in the service of the Niger Company I had a favourite boy, one of the handsomest negroes I ever met. He had, at intervals, attacks of a disease rather peculiar to the lower regions of the Niger. When his work was done he would go down to a district where alluvial clay was mixed with the river sand, and he accentuated his disease by eating handfuls of the clay. I was very fond of the boy, and tried to prevent him killing himself; but he resented this, and wanted to be left alone. I do not say the Stoke employers or workmen have got down to the level of the negro, but they are within measurable distance of my boy on the banks of the Niger. It seems to me that this Report of Dr. Oliver and Dr. Thorpe is a moral stimulus in the right direction. The hon. Member for Stoke must remember that the slave trade was only done away with in the teeth of the slave-owners. He must know that in the Potteries beer is regarded as the best antidote to lead poisoning, and does he expect the publicans to say that beer is not the best antidote to ead poisoning? The men who are in the lowest position of life are always the last to move in the direction of improvement. Then the

hon. Member for Stoke said that Drs. Oliver and Thorpe, however qualified as physicians, were not practical potters. They may not be practical potters, but they can tell the physical effect of certain poisons on the human frame ; and this Report is worth to me more than all the opinions of all the potters in the Potteries. I am glad that these gentlemen have not condescended to the paltry argument of the hon Member for Stoke, but have given their views straight on the conditions of affairs in the trade. Here is a rough test of the physical effects of the pottery trade upon those engaged in it. Last Saturday an excursion party of 2,000 or 3,000 men and women from the Black Country and the Pottery districts walked through the portals of the House of Parliament. With the exception of a contingent of Bushmen from near Timbuctoo, I never saw a body of smaller people than these excursionists from the Potteries. They had heads on them like sugar loaves, and shoulders like champagne bottles. A recruiting sergeant would not look at a single one of the men. On every face there was evidence of suffering and bad conditions before they were born, going to work too young, and while at work working under conditions disgraceful to employers and employed.

MR. COGHILL : If the hon. Member for Battersea will come to Stoke-upon-Trent I will show him among the potters some of the finest men he has ever seen.

*MR. JOHN BURNS : I have been both in the Pottery district and the Black Country oftener than the hon. Member seems to think, and I have told the people there what I now say across the floor of the House of Commons.

MR. COGHILL : The conditions of labour in the Potteries and the Black Country are very different.

*MR. JOHN BURNS : We know that in one district they make chains and nails, and in the other they make pots and china ; but as regards wages, hours, sanitary and factory conditions there is no difference between the two. The hon. Member says that the workmen want things to continue as they are. But time means money, and these workmen frequently give the time to their work which they ought to give to their meals, and to cleansing their persons.

Mr. John Burns.

The hon. Member will find that it is the industrial environment, the low wages, and the bad sanitary conditions that are responsible for the state of affairs disclosed in this Report. We find that 1,085 persons were suffering from lead poisoning out of a population of 4,703 working in lead, or just over 30 per cent. If that were the condition of our soldiers in India, in regard to another disease ; if it were the condition of our garrisons at home, Parliament would be alarmed, and would pretty soon take action. And yet the hon. Member for Stoke says that that is a condition of things which ought to be left alone, and that that is the opinion of the people themselves. I do not believe it. Well, if that is so, the sooner this district is disfranchised the better. What has been the effect of leaving them alone ? The effect is that the employers have done practically nothing during the last four or five years to introduce improvements. In many cases the factories are insanitary, and the premises dilapidated, and meal rooms are not introduced as they should be. Generally, the policy of leaving them alone has been to let things grow worse in the district. It is the duty of the Home Secretary to use every means in his power to bring public opinion to operate against such a state of things. Will the hon. Member for Stoke stand up in his place and say that fritted lead is universally used in the Pottery district ? It is not so used, because in the Staffordshire district the good employers are dominated by the majority of bad employers ; and what is wanted is that the good employers should be backed up by public opinion, by the Home Secretary, and by the Factory Inspectors, and then the good employers would dominate the bad. Then we are told it is difficult to get a substitute for raw lead. Is there an industry or trade in which similar excuses have not been used ? Railway directors make the same excuse in regard to automatic couplings. There is not an industry where public opinion is not necessary to stimulate the best employers in the right direction. Then I come to the point about the employment of young persons in these dangerous trades. The opinion of every factory authority in every industrial country is against it ; and I am sure it is the private personal opinion of the hon. Member for Stoke

himself, because no one, especially if he is a married man—one of the advantages of getting married is that a man becomes wiser—would like to see a girl or boy of his own of fifteen or sixteen years of age a dipper's assistant, or engaged in drawing the ovens. These boys and girls are to be the fathers and mothers of the next few years, and they ought to be protected. It is the duty of Parliament to see that women should not be employed in these dangerous trades, not only for their own sakes but to prevent them from transmitting the loathsome and dangerous disease, proved by Dr. Oliver and Dr. Thorpe, and which, in some districts, have rendered recruiting impossible, as the children do not grow up to be strong and healthy men. We are told that reforms should be introduced with care and caution, and that the manufacturers should not be pressed too much. I can only say that out of sixty-four prosecutions, sixty were against workpeople, and four against employers. That means that the inspector is not doing his duty up to the proper standard. When I read about the unsatisfactory condition of many of the works, I am driven to one conclusion, and one only, and that is, that the time has arrived when the Home Secretary should be scientifically disagreeable with the Pottery districts. The right hon. Gentleman is too sympathetic, too kind-hearted, too disinclined to apply the strong measures he ought to apply. My advice to him is to send down to Staffordshire some of the twenty-nine new officials and doctors he has appointed, and to give them the marching order to read Dr. Oliver's and Dr. Thorpe's Report between Euston and Stafford. Let him tell them to get to work at once, on the basis of that Report, and then, within the present law and sphere of administration, much can be done in the next twelve months to bring the bad employers up to the best possible standard. I must say also that the time has arrived when our magistrates—the weakest link in factory legislation—should have brought before them in some special way the evils they are perpetuating by inflicting only nominal fines. I ask the right hon. Gentleman to get Drs. Oliver and Thorpe to summarise their Report, and then to circulate it to the magistrates through these Pottery districts. If that were done, and some stiff penalties were imposed, much good might be done. Four or five years ago I was snubbed

in the Grand Committee on Trade for saying that the special rules would very shortly be regarded as unworkable and arbitration on special rules ridiculous. I was glad to see that the hon. and learned Member the ex-Home Secretary now concurred in that view, and the speeches delivered in the course of the Debate indicate that the special rules must go, that arbitration must disappear, and that the factory inspectors, with regard to the enforcement of the law, should have the same power as an ordinary sanitary inspector in London has against a householder who is perpetuating a nuisance, or who has diphtheria or scarlet fever in his house. There should be prompt summary powers to stop these things, and if the Home Secretary is only inclined to do it, he has the means at his command already. Why is it that we have had no Factory Report within the last eighteen months? Is it that there is something in regard to these trades that we are not wanted to know? Is the Home Office under-staffed? I cannot understand why the Home Secretary should have suffered this delay, and I would suggest that he should employ more Female inspectors for dangerous trades, and re-issue the circular urging on the factory inspectors to rise to the highest level of their duty and enforce all the Acts which come within their power. I suggest that the factory inspectors should be shifted from district to district, and that the medical should be placed above suspicion. Hitherto the factory inspectors have received the highest encomiums for their probity; but I am persuaded that a condition of things exists which demands a stricter enforcement of the factory laws. If more power is needed, it is the business of the Home Secretary to come to the House of Commons and ask for these greater powers. He will receive from all sides of the House support in legislation for the protection of the helpless and for the removal of evils which have too long prevailed in dangerous trades.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: There has been a long and interesting Debate, and a great amount of advice has been given to me as to what should be the contents of any measure it may be in my power to introduce on any future occasion. The hon. Member who has just sat down seems to have an idea that it is necessary to see that there is more activity on the part of inspectors of factories. There

could not possibly be a more erroneous idea than that there is a want of activity on the part of the inspectors, and I can assure the House that to carry out the immense amount of work imposed on them by the Act of 1885 and other Acts, and by the new developments which have taken place from time to time, is quite as much as the present staff can undertake. The reduction of the Vote has been moved because of the lateness of the Report of the chief inspector. I regret that the Report should be late, but it is almost impossible to ensure that so elaborate a Report should be ready by the month of May. It could not be secured altogether by an addition to the staff, because there must be a master hand, and the master hand has to work on the Report exactly at the very busiest time of the year. It is almost impossible to bring out a Report of such magnitude so that it may be in the hands of Members before the Home Office Vote is discussed. I only wish it could be done, because the more the Reports of the inspectors are studied the more fully will it be realised how much the Home Office are trying to do what they can to enforce the Acts, and how great the difficulties are. The main part of the Debate has turned upon the two very important Reports with reference to glazing and the match-making industry, and I have been asked what I propose to do in reference to them. I admitted last year—and I do not go back on what I said—that in reference to both these industries I am convinced that new special rules will be necessary. I have proceeded upon lines which appear to me the most reasonable and fair—namely, to send the Reports to the various manufacturers concerned, who, after all, ought to be consulted and considered, and to ask them what they can do to meet the suggestions of Drs. Thorpe and Oliver. I submit that the best way for a Minister to secure the good administration of the law is to carry with him, as far as he possibly can, the goodwill of those with whom he has to deal. I have received answers from the manufacturers, which have been alluded to by one or two speakers, and I am about to have another conference with them in a few days, and I have every hope that we shall together be able to frame special rules, which will very much improve the conditions of this trade. As far as the Home Office is concerned, we shall not be indisposed to do

the best we can to support the views of the experts in this matter. The very great difficulties of the phosphorus business have been referred to, and I do not see how, without adequate consideration of the Report and reference to the manufacturers, special rules could be devised. A good deal was known of the facts last year, but only in a tentative way. The Reports have, however, added a great deal to our knowledge, and this circumstance ought to induce many manufacturers to enter into a new and more satisfactory arrangement. The question of arbitration and special rules is a difficult one, because it is not easy to secure the passing of special rules which would be fair to the various industries, and which ought to be adopted by the working men. I hope, however, that I shall be able to propose legislation which will materially alter the present state of the law. A Bill was prepared many months ago by those responsible for the administration of the Factory Acts, dealing with special rules; but the fates have been against me. I wish, however, to disabuse the minds of hon. Members of the misapprehension that the Government had no idea of introducing legislation on the subject this session. In the course of the present year I have been able to enter into successful negotiations with manufacturers, especially in the white lead industry, to secure special rules which I hope will be satisfactory to that trade, and which may have the effect of inducing others to accept similar conditions. It is impossible for me to give a definite promise to introduce a factory Bill next year, but it will be a matter of great disappointment to me if I find myself unable to deal with the particular question to which I have referred at an early period next session. Something has been said about the Reports as to fritted lead and phosphorus. Everybody will admit that, surrounded as we are with difficulties, yet special rules could be developed out of these Reports, which would be likely for the time being to effect very considerable results. I am asked to agree to an inquiry in reference to the file-cutting and grinding trade, but I do not for a moment propose to deal with these industries without communicating with those interested on both sides of the question. The hon. Member for Bow and Bromley spoke of the difficulties of arbitration, and said that those who held out longest

Sir. M. White Ridley.

might get the best terms in the sense of having less restrictions imposed upon them under arbitration. If we take the last arbitration, as an instance, that is the case to a certain extent, but it is open to those who previously agreed to the rules to come under the arbitration terms. I am not defending this system of special rules, because in any legislation which I propose, though I do not suppose I shall go so far as to propose that the Secretary of State himself should be able to propose rules which shall be laid upon the Table of this House, I entirely agree that this principle of arbitration should be materially altered if not entirely done away with. My desire is that the power to make rules should be much more with the Secretary of State than at present, subject to a fair opportunity being given to those who are concerned of being heard before an impartial authority. I do not wish to be understood to have promised that there should be some special provision in my proposed Bill dealing in so many words with such questions as the employment of young persons, the use of raw lead, phosphorus, and so forth. What I do say is that I intend to take specific powers to make rules in regard to these matters, because it is very doubtful whether such rules can be made under the present law. I hope to make these proposals early next session, and I trust that they will not be found unsatisfactory. I admit that the key to the position is effective inspection. I cannot altogether agree that the inspection of the Home Office has been as inefficient as the hon. Member for Bromley and Bow suggests. I have not shrunk from making a very considerable increase of the staff in order to meet the difficulties which exist. I am asked to appoint a Departmental Committee to inquire into this question, but I have had a Departmental Committee sitting for some time, and they have presented a very exhaustive Report on the conditions which now attach to the inspection of factories, the relations of men inspectors to women, and the work women do. There is an addition at the present moment of one woman inspector, two or three junior inspectors, and a medical inspector. I hope very soon to appoint a deputy chief inspector. I have not yet made that appointment, because it is part of the general organisation, which we have not had time to carry out satisfactorily. The hon. Gentleman the Member for East Brad-

ford has spoken of anthrax in the wool-sorting, and has said provision ought to be made for making that trade less dangerous. I am sorry to hear what has been said about the increase of anthrax in that trade. But I am in a position to say that the diseases arise from subsequent processes, such as wool-combing. As to the controversy with the hon. Member for Stoke, I must say that I do not find unwillingness on the part of the employers to enter into arrangements with the Home Office. I have done my best not to flaunt special rules in a hurry before manufacturers, but to bring evidence and suggestions before them as to what can be done. Under the present state of the law that is the most practical way. Complaint has been made that the Home Office does not act more quickly. Everyone desires to ameliorate the conditions of workpeople in these dangerous trades, but the circumstances have to be considered, and the legal difficulties are great. A great deal has been done during the past few years by action which is far short of compulsion, or the imposition of such rules. There are many instances in which the Home Office has, by the action of its inspectors, by advice and repeated conference and suggestions, done a great deal to improve the conditions of the dangerous trades. While I do not go back from the position that it is desirable that legislation should be introduced for several objects, and especially for doing away with arbitration, I do not hesitate to assert that much could be done in a quiet way.

MR. ASQUITH : I wish to associate myself with the well-deserved tribute which the right hon. Gentleman has paid to the zeal and efficiency of the factory inspectors. If our system of inspection does not attain all the results which it is intended to accomplish, that is due, not to any want of efficiency on the part of the inspector, but partly to the defects of the law and partly to the insufficiency of the staff. I am glad to hear that additions to the staff are contemplated, and I should have been glad to hear that, with respect to the districts where the trades peculiarly dangerous to women and children are carried on, female inspectors were to be stationed in the districts for a considerable time, so that by personal contact with employers and employed we might not only see that

the law was enforced, but be able to make valuable suggestions for the amendment of the law. With regard to the late presentation of the Report, I cannot, although I have every desire to do so, recognise the explanation which the right hon. Gentleman has given as in any way satisfactory. When the House of Commons has on one occasion only in the year the opportunity of reviewing not the law, but the administration of the law by this great Department of State, surely it is a reproach to those responsible for the administration of that law that the representatives of the people should have to discuss it without having in their hands the statistics and facts, and the reports of the inspectors on those facts. I recognise to the full the zeal and efficiency of the staff, but whatever steps are necessary, whether by an increase in the staff or by other means, in order to secure that the presentation of the Report should be made a reasonable time before the Vote for the Home Office comes on, ought to be, and must be taken. I do not hesitate to say that such steps are necessary both in the interests of administrative efficiency and of the effective control of the House of Commons over one of the great Departments of State. As regards the dangerous trades in regard to which a great part of the discussion has taken place, I am glad to find that the right hon. Gentleman recognises the urgency of effective action. The right hon. Gentleman, however, recognised that urgency as frankly and as fully in the Debate twelve months ago, and I must say, without going into the controversial questions raised by the hon. Member for Stoke, that having carefully considered this matter for a number of years, I do not consider it safe for the Department to rely on the spontaneous and voluntary action of the employers in this matter. Here as elsewhere, both as regards legislation and administration, the difficulty we have to deal with is not to persuade the humane and reasonable employer to resort to such means as his own conscience and common-sense suggest. The real difficulty is, that in every trade there are a certain number of employers who, partly from insufficient means, want of enterprise, or perhaps sluggishness of conscience, fall below the average standard of their own class. These are the people who constitute the real difficulty, and we shall never be able

to deal with them without clear legislation and stringent administration. I quite agree with the right hon. Gentleman that our experience in this matter shows that in the present state of the law we cannot rely on special rules. The conclusion to which I have come from listening to this Debate and from the right hon. Gentleman's own speech is that if ever there were a case in which the necessity for legislation was clearly established it is this case. I think it is established on two quite distinct grounds. First of all, take those matters—I agree a considerable number—contained in the Report of Professor Thorpe and Dr. Oliver, which are dealt with by special rules. When these special rules are framed, the Home Office is brought up against the stone wall of arbitration, with the result, to use an illustration from the chess board, that a kind of stalemate is established. Some of the employers acquiesce in the special rules, but others dispute them, and one single employer who holds out, out of a hundred or a thousand employers, is able by means of the dilatory progress of arbitration to get substantial modifications of the provisions laid down by the Home Office for the safe conduct of the trade, not only for himself, but also for his fellow employers who did not ask to have the rules modified. That is a very unsatisfactory state of things. The hon. Member for Derby said that I was the author of the system of arbitration. I disclaim, as I am entitled to do, whatever credit or discredit attaches to the invention of that system. It was invented by the Act of 1891, before I had anything to do with these matters, and it was to me, while I was concerned with the administration of the law, as I am sure it now is to my right hon. friend opposite, a constant stumbling block. As regards those matters which cannot be dealt with by special rule, the hands of the Home Office are fettered and the efficiency of the administration of the law is impaired, as long as this power of resorting to arbitration is placed at the disposal of any employer. I was very glad to hear from the right hon. Gentleman that in his proposals for legislation he intended to deal with this matter, but I listened with a little alarm to his allusion to what he called an impartial tribunal. Arbitration is, I suppose, an impartial tribunal, but I would much rather that the right hon. Gentleman would keep the power himself. It would be

Mr. Asquith.

much better—I speak quite deliberately and after having given the matter a great deal of consideration—if Parliament would give power to the Secretary of State for the time being to make special rules, subject to such Parliamentary supervision and control as are involved in the laying of those rules on the Table of this House, and enacting that they should not come into force if the House of Commons really objected to them. I agree that the House ought to have full opportunity of discussing these rules, and that we should not be restricted to a capricious hour after twelve o'clock. I am quite prepared not only to admit, but to insist, that if such arbitrary and autocratic power is to be vested in the Secretary of State, the House of Commons should have the fullest opportunity of hearing all the arguments, and of considering, revising, and, if it pleased, rejecting such rules. I am satisfied there will never be a satisfactory solution of this question until an arrangement of this kind is substituted for arbitration. But even then, there are some matters which can be dealt with by special rules, and others which cannot. Take, for instance, the main recommendation of that excellent Report which has been referred to, that in future raw lead should not be allowed to be employed. I do not think at present that can be enforced by a special rule, and it would be a dangerous experiment for the Home Secretary to try. Here we have got a clear case for coming to Parliament for the necessary power to carry out that recommendation. At present it is a matter entirely beyond the purview and scope of a special rule, and it is one of the clearest cases for urgent and prompt legislation possible to imagine. I do not doubt for a moment the assurance of the right hon. Gentleman that if he had his own way legislation would be introduced, but we cannot isolate a particular Minister from his colleagues, or consider the policy of one Department; we must take the policy of the Government as a whole. When I think of some of the hours and days and

months occupied during the session in putting upon the Statute Book an Act which will not be exercised in one constituency in a hundred, for advancing money to wealthy working men; when I remember the time occupied with this and other nugatory work—

*THE CHAIRMAN: It would be very dangerous if we got into a discussion on the Workmen's Dwellings Bill.

MR. ASQUITH: I appreciate the risk, and I will only say as a general argument that there have been projects of legislation placed before the House of Commons which cannot compare in point of social urgency with this admitted necessity to preserve the lives and health of our working population. We know that in this matter we have the fullest sympathy of the right hon. Gentleman, and I can only express a sincere hope that the right hon. Gentleman will be able to impress his colleagues with the views he himself entertains. As regards the general administration of the Factory Laws, I heard with very great satisfaction what the right hon. Gentleman said as to his proposals for the general reorganisation and improvement of the staff. I am quite satisfied that with laws of this kind increasing yearly in complexity and also in social and industrial urgency, the administrative arrangements, which were perfectly adequate five years ago, have now fallen very much below the level we ought to seek to attain. I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that in any proposals he makes to enlarge the scope and to increase the sufficiency of the staff by which the urgent work of administration is carried on, he will have not only the sympathy but the active support of all sections of the House. I think this has been on the whole a very satisfactory and illuminating discussion. Certainly the impression it leaves on my mind is that until by increased legislative power the good intentions of the Home Office, which always exist, are able to carry themselves into effective action, I will not say

the money voted to-night will be wasted, but I will say that it will not be put to such a beneficent purpose as it might. My right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean has moved the reduction of the salary of the Secretary of State. I do not know whether he intends to press that motion to a Division, but if he does, for my part, although I sympathise with a great deal, if not all, of what he said, I cannot support him in the Lobby. I am satisfied that the Debate has served the purpose for which it was intended, and I can only hope that the assurances, indefinite though they be, which have been given by the right hon. Gentleman will be carried into effect.

MR. TENNANT: I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he will consider the advisability of having his Bill read a first time this session, in order that we might discuss it in the autumn, and that he might have the views of both employers and employed throughout the country on it.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I am afraid I cannot accede to the request of the hon. Gentleman.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I would wish to call the attention of the Home Secretary to one fact. He was under the impression that I had been too severe in my criticism of the employers.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: No.

MR. JOHN BURNS: In using the language I did, I was more than justified. The right hon. Gentleman said he frequently found employers anxious to assist him, but the report of Messrs. Oliver and Thorpe states that all the evidence they were able to collect forced them to the conclusion that very little of an effective character had been even attempted by the employers. That is the description given by the right hon. Gentleman's own officers; and in the language I made use of, I was only confirming what their experience was in the Pottery districts.

Question put.

The Committee divided : Ayes, 35 ; Noes, 115. (Division List, No. 229.)

AYES.

Atherley-Jones, L.
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Crilly, Daniel
Dalziel, James Henry
Davitt, Michael
Doogan, P. C.
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-

Hazell, Walter
Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Ghee, Richard
M'Kenna, Reginald
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Paulton, James Mellor
Reckitt, Harold James
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)

Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tennant, Harold John
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Charles Dilke and Mr.
John Burns.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.

Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinok, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bond, Edward
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord H. (Greenwich)

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Bir.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)

Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Denny, Colonel
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Drage, Geoffrey
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Mncr.)
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Godson, Sir A. Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.

Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Howell, William Tudor
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col William
 Keswick, William
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swan.)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Milton, Viscount
 Monk, Chas. James
 More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Pender, Sir James
 Percy, Earl

Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Purvis, Robert
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Ward, Hon. R. A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, B. C. Vernon
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts., Mansfield): If I did not fear being called to order by you, Sir, I should be glad to avail myself of this Vote to urge on the Home Secretary the necessity for Burial Law reform. I have to make a complaint very different from the complaints to which we have listened to to-night. Complaints have been made of the Home Secretary for not doing things he ought to have done. My complaint is that he is doing things which had better be left undone. I think we are entitled to ask the Home Secretary not to administer the existing law with unnecessary rigour. The point to which I wish to call his attention is the requirement of consecrated in addition to unconsecrated ground in the case of cemeteries under the Burial Acts. I am quite aware that in regard to new cemeteries the Home Office is entitled to insist that there shall be consecrated and unconsecrated parts, but the law is not so clear with regard to additions to cemeteries. Some time ago the late Home Secretary was engaged in

a lengthy controversy with the Corporation of Hull. He required a large amount of additional ground to be consecrated. The Corporation refused, and ultimately the Home Secretary ceased to put pressure on the Corporation and abandoned his contention. Since then the Basingstoke decision has been obtained, which I admit enables the Home Office to insist that additional ground should be consecrated, and at the present moment the Home Office is pressing Colne, in Lancashire, to consecrate the proposed addition to the cemetery which the Burial Authority considers is absolutely unnecessary. The facts are that the existing unconsecrated ground is quite full, and that therefore unconsecrated ground is needed. But the existing consecrated ground is not full, and may last for some considerable time longer. Yet, notwithstanding that, the Home Office is insisting that the new ground shall be divided into consecrated and unconsecrated parts. That is not only absurd, but very embarrassing to the Burial Authorities, who have a difficulty in deciding how much shall be consecrated and how much un-

consecrated. They do not know what the facts of the case may be in years to come, when additional consecrated ground may be required; and I submit that the Home Office might very reasonably allow this question to rest until the necessity for new consecrated ground actually arises. This is one of those cases of which it cannot be said that delay is dangerous. No conceivable harm can result if the Home Office lets the matter rest, whereas hasty action may cause much that may hereafter be regretted. I think the Home Office in matters of

this kind might be a little more accommodating.

It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

House adjourned at five minutes after Twelve of the clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 10th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 17).

And the certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with.

HARROW AND UXBRIDGE RAILWAY.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL

Ought to be dispensed with and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that the agreement between the London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway Company and the Midland Railway Company contained in the Third Schedule to the Bill shall be of no validity until the publication in the *London Gazette* of a certificate by two justices that the said agreement has been approved by a general meeting of the shareholders of the Midland Railway Company held in the month of August, 1899, in accordance with Standing Order 64.

Read, and agreed to.

GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL.

Committee to meet To-morrow.

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION MARKETS BILL.**MILLWALL DOCK BILL.**

STOCKPORT CORPORATION BILL.
Committee to meet on Thursday next.

VOL. LXXIV. [FOURTH SERIES.]**DERBY CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL.**

Committee to meet on Friday next.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.**BROMPTON AND PICCADILLY CIRCUS RAILWAY BILL.**

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bills was withdrawn. The orders made on the 27th of June and on Tuesday last discharged; and Bills committed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn; the orders made on Monday and Friday last discharged; and Bill committed to a Committee of the whole House.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY BILL.

The Queen's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee with Amendments..

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

The Queen's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.**DUBLIN CORPORATION (MARKETS) BILL.**

Leave given to the Select Committee to adjourn over To-morrow.

IONIAN BANK BILL.

Read 3^a, and passed.

AYR BURGH BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

BELFAST WATER BILL.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY BILL.
LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER
RAILWAY BILL.
NOTTINGHAM CORPORATION BILL.

SCUNTHORPE URBAN DISTRICT GAS
AND WATER BILL.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the
Amendments agreed to.

INVERNESS HARBOUR BILL. [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons with the
Amendment made by the Lords to the
Amendments made by the Commons
agreed to.

TRANSVAAL MORTGAGE LOAN AND
FINANCE COMPANY BILL. [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons, agreed
to.

GREAT YARMOUTH PIER BILL. [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to,
with Amendments; the said Amend-
ments considered, and agreed to.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL
POWERS) BILL.

Committed: The Committee to be
proposed by the Committee of Selection.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 9) BILL.

House to be in Committee to-morrow.

MILITARY LANDS PROVISIONAL
ORDER BILL.

House to be in Committee to-morrow,
and Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and
XLV. to be considered in order to their
being dispensed with.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1st;
to be printed and referred to the Ex-
aminers. (No. 160.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

LOCAL TAXATION (SCOTLAND).

Return showing the total payments
into and out of the Local Taxation (Scot-
land) Account for the financial year
1898-99.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (JUDICIAL
RENTS).

Return for the month of December,
1898.

TRADE REPORTS (1899) ANNUAL
SERIES.

No. 2312. Germany (Frankfort-on-
Main).

No. 2313. Santo Domingo.

No. 2314. United States (Boston and
District).

Presented (by Command), and ordered
to lie on the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT,
1898.

Regulations under the Local Govern-
ment (Application of Enactments) Order,
1898, as to issue of county stock.

FINES, ETC. (IRELAND).

Abstract of accounts of fines accounted
for by the Registrar of Petty Sessions
Clerks for the year 1897.

DOGS REGULATION (IRELAND) ACT,
1865.

Account of receipts and expenditure
under the Act, for 1898.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Treasury Minute, dated 3rd July, 1899,
declaring that Mr. Henry Gwilliam, arti-
ficer, Royal Small Arms Factory, War
Office, was appointed without a Civil Ser-
vice certificate through inadvertence on
the part of the head of his Department.

Laid before the House (pursuant to
Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES BILL.
[H.L.]

House in Committee (according to
Order).

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

*VISCOUNT CROSS: This clause pro-
vides that not less than forty days before
the making of a scheme the council shall
give the prescribed notice of their inten-
tion to make it, and shall state where
copies of the draft of the scheme may be

obtained, and where the plan therein referred to may be inspected. In the opinion of the Board of Agriculture, forty days is not a sufficiently long notice, because persons interested may be abroad and may not get the notice in time. I therefore propose an Amendment to substitute three months as the term of notice.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out 'forty days,' and insert 'three months.'"—(Viscount Cross.)

On Question, "That the words 'forty days' stand part of the clause," resolved in the negative.

On Question, "That the words 'three months' be here inserted," agreed to.

***VISCOUNT CROSS:** I have a proviso to add at the end of Clause 2. I am very anxious that the expenses in connection with the regulation of commons should be reduced as much as possible, and in the matter of small commons and village greens I do not think it should be necessary to obtain the consent of two-thirds of the commoners, which is a very expensive proceeding. The difficulty, first of all, is to get hold of two-thirds of the commoners, and, secondly, to get their consent. What we propose is that a scheme may go on, unless the Board of Agriculture receive a written notice of dissent either from the person entitled, as lord of the manor, or otherwise, to the soil of the common, or from persons representing at least one-third in value of such interests in the common as are affected by the scheme. It must not be forgotten that we are dealing in this matter with private rights. The lord of the manor, as well as the commoners, undoubtedly has a right, and we must remember that commons do not belong to the public, but to the commoners and to the lord of the manor. Although, as I have said, I am most anxious to reduce expenditure as much as possible, I do not think it is right that private property should be taken away in this summary manner by a Department. It is not a good thing to say that people may break the Tenth Commandment, and, when they have broken it, it is still a worse thing to say that they may break the eighth.

Amendment moved— After line 12 to insert the following proviso : ... :

"Provided that if, at any time before the Board have approved of the scheme, they receive a written notice of dissent either—

(a) from the person entitled as lord of the manor or otherwise to the soil of the common; or

(b) from persons representing at least one-third in value of such interests in the common as are affected by the scheme;

and such notice is not subsequently withdrawn, the Board shall not proceed further in the matter."—(Viscount Cross.)

LORD BURGHCLERE: I had proposed to move to amend the Amendment of the noble Viscount by inserting after "provided that" the following words: "in the case of commons exceeding 200 acres in extent." I think the Government might well have accepted the provisions of my Bill as originally drawn, and that we might have relied with assurance upon adequate inquiries being made, and due discretion exercised, by the Board of Agriculture, without referring at all to the absolute veto of the lord of the manor and those interested in the commons. By the Bill as it stands, the lord of the manor and all those interested in commons would have ample opportunity of laying their objections to any scheme that might be proposed before the Board of Agriculture, and I cannot conceive the Board of Agriculture, under any possible conditions, refusing to listen to those objections or sanctioning any scheme in connection with which there could be shown a shade of justifiable objection. I understand that the Government are unable to accept my Amendment, even in the case of the smallest commons, and I deeply regret that they have arrived at this decision. The Bill as it stands seems to me to be a right and equitable alteration of the law for the benefit of everyone concerned, including the lord of the manor, and I had hoped that, although the noble Viscount could not accept the Bill as it was originally drawn, he would, at any rate, have been able, as a compromise, to support my amendment to his Amendment, limiting that Amendment to cases of commons exceeding 200 acres in extent. However, the Bill, even as amended in the manner proposed by the noble Viscount, contains a concession of considerable value, and an alteration of the law which will be of great benefit to the commons affected. The Bill, notwithstanding the

Amendments, absolutely meets those special cases to which I alluded when I had the honour of moving the Second Reading of this Bill, and the hardship of which I ventured at that time to lay special stress upon—I mean the case of the smaller commons, which everyone agrees might be improved, regulated, and used for the enjoyment of the neighbourhoods in which they are situated. Under the Commons Act of 1876 we were obliged, even in the case of very small commons, to go through such an expensive and lengthy procedure as practically to prohibit the possibility of promoting schemes for their regulation and improvement. Under this Bill, even as amended, we get rid of the exhaustive inquiries on the spot, the reference to Parliament, and the reference to the Select Committee on Commons in Parliament. We also get rid of an Act of Parliament, and of the expensive process of sending down a valuer to make an award. I know this only takes place in non-contentious cases, but I am assured, on very good authority, that, in the case of the smaller commons to which I have alluded, in nine instances out of ten there will be no opposition, and that, therefore, great benefit will be conferred by this Bill. I have reason to believe that if I accept the proviso of the noble Viscount, and withdraw my Amendment to it, the Bill will be regarded by the Government as a non-contentious measure, and will receive their support and encouragement when it reaches the other House, should your Lordships allow it to pass through all its stages here. In order that the Bill may become law this session I will withdraw my Amendment, and accept the noble Viscount's proviso.

VISCOUNT CROSS: I am glad that the noble Lord has seen his way to withdraw his Amendment. The view of the Board of Agriculture coincides with that of the noble Lord, and they believe that with regard to the smaller commons the noble Lord will, in the majority of cases, even with the proviso added, gain his object.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I am rather sorry that the noble Lord has withdrawn his Amendment without having it more fully discussed, because I regard the proviso as it stands as rather too stringent. The proviso states that if the lord of the manor or persons repre-

Lord Burghclere.

senting at least one-third in value of the interests in the common dissent, then the scheme is to be absolutely withdrawn. If it were proposed to take away any rights of property without compensation, I should thoroughly agree with the proviso the noble Viscount proposes, but if your Lordships will look at Clause 7 of the Bill you will see that it is there provided that :

"No estate, interest, or right of a profitable or beneficial nature in, over, or affecting any common shall, except with the consent of the person entitled thereto, be taken away or injuriously affected by any scheme under this part of this Act without compensation being made or provided for the same by the council making the scheme, and such compensation shall, in case of difference, be ascertained and provided in the same manner as if it were for the compulsory purchase and taking, or the injurious affecting of lands under the Land Clauses Acts."

Therefore, my Lords, under the Bill as it stands the fullest compensation is provided, both for the lord of the manor and for any other person whose property it may be proposed to take away. In the first instance, the individual whose right was affected would have the power to appeal to the Board of Agriculture, and we may suppose that the Board of Agriculture would listen carefully to his statement. Then, if the Board of Agriculture should not agree with the person protesting, it is true the lord of the manor would have to surrender his right, but he would be amply compensated. I would put it to the House whether, under the present law, the rights of property owners are not amply protected. Of course as the noble Lord has withdrawn his Amendment there is nothing more to be said, but I think the case which he presented to the House was one deserving of very careful consideration.

LORD DAVEY: I am afraid that the Amendment of the noble Viscount will prove extremely embarrassing both to the district board and to the Board of Agriculture. I agree that the powers which it is proposed to exercise under this Bill may interfere with the legal rights of the lord of the manor. Therefore it is right, no doubt, that the lord of the manor should have a veto, but this does not apply to the commoners, because with the omission of Clause 8 of this Bill—the omission which the noble Viscount proposes to move—nothing can be done to

the common which will in any way interfere with the rights of the commoners to feed their cattle, sheep, ponies, donkeys, and geese on the common. There will only be then the power to make a scheme for regulating and levelling the common and so forth, but not to deprive any person of any right of common or in any way whatever to restrict or hinder the exercise of his right of common over the whole common as heretofore. Therefore it is not strictly necessary that the consent of the commoners, represented by two-thirds, should be required. I think I am right in saying that only the consent of the lord of the manor is required to the making of a Provisional Order under the Inclosure Acts, although a Provisional Order of that character may seriously interfere with the rights of commoners. Therefore, I do not think it is strictly necessary to the limited purposes to which this Bill will be restricted if Clause 8 is struck out, as I suppose will be the case, that the consent of two-thirds of the commoners should be obtained when their rights will not in any way be interfered with. There is another objection to the manner in which the Amendment is framed. The noble Viscount's Amendment requires notice of dissent from persons representing at least one-third in value of such interests in the common as are affected by the scheme. The noble Viscount, no doubt, is aware of the litigation which has taken place, and the difficulties which have been experienced in ascertaining exactly who are the commoners who have rights of common, whether exercised or not. That difficulty will be very much enhanced when you have to consider the value of the interests which persons may have in the common; and he would be a bold man indeed who would venture to place a value upon those interests. Therefore it will be extremely difficult for the Board of Agriculture in many cases to ascertain whether the persons who dissent represent one-third in value of the interests in the common, and it will be equally embarrassing for the district board. I would venture to ask the noble Viscount whether, at another stage, he could not consider the expediency of leaving out division (b) of his Amendment.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: I am glad that the noble Lord has withdrawn his Amendment, and that there is now a

possibility of the measure being regarded as a non-contentious one. I should be glad if the noble Viscount could give the House some assurance that the Bill will be pushed on in the other House and become law this session.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON : I agree with the noble Lord who has just spoken in thinking that Lord Burghclere has done well in not contesting the Amendments of the Government, and in taking a step which, I hope, will secure the passing of this Bill during the present session. The Bill, as amended, will not secure all that my noble friend desired, but it will, at any rate, simplify to a large extent the process connected with the regulation of commons and village greens. I feel a little regret at the disappearance of the noble Lord's Amendment to this clause, and I hope it will be remembered that there is a great difference between small commons and large commons. This Bill was drafted for the purpose of providing simpler and less expensive machinery for regulating small commons and village greens, the circumstances of which are very different from those of the large commons, some of which are many thousands of acres in extent. Although I am sorry that the Amendment has been withdrawn, at the same time I think the noble Lord exercised a wise discretion in not pressing it.

***VISCOUNT CROSS :** It is true, as the noble Marquess has stated, that there is a natural difference between large and small commons, but the principle of maintaining private rights is the same and applies to both. With regard to the observations of the noble and learned Lord (Lord Davey), I may say that, although I listened with all the care I could to the very ingenious argument he put forward, no practical difficulty has been experienced in finding out who are the commoners. The difficulty has been in providing the funds for that purpose. My Amendment will do away with a large portion of the expenses, because it will be much easier to find out one-third of the persons interested than two-thirds. In reply to Lord Ribblesdale, I should be very glad, personally, to see the Bill passed as an agreed Bill this session, if possible. I cannot answer, of course, for what may take place in the other House, but I know that it is the wish of the

right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture that the Bill should pass as quickly as possible.

LORD SPENCER : The noble Viscount apparently did not thoroughly grasp the point in the speech of my noble and learned friend (Lord Davey) behind me. I have had a very large experience with regard to commons, and I endorse what the noble and learned Lord has said as to the difficulty of ascertaining the value of interests which persons may have in a common. The difficulty in regard to the commons with which I have been connected was, first of all, to ascertain who were the commoners who had a legal right to the common, and, secondly, the value of their right. I cannot help thinking that there is a very substantial and real objection to division (b) of the noble Viscount's Amendment.

LORD THRING : My Lords, I have had a great deal to do with legislation affecting commons, and, although I am sorry the Amendment was not insisted upon, I cannot but congratulate your Lordships upon having consented to what, I believe, will be a very useful Bill. Under this Bill it will be brought within the power of every county to regulate its own commons, and I regard the Bill as a very useful one.

On Question, "That these words be here inserted," agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3, agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

***VISCOUNT CROSS :** My Lords, I move to leave out Clause 4. Under this clause a parish council may apply to the district council of the district comprising the parish to make a scheme for the regulation and management of any common within the parish; and, if the district council refuses or neglects to make a scheme, the parish council may apply for that purpose to the county council. The county council, if satisfied that the circumstances are such that a scheme should be made for the regulation and management of the common, may pass a resolution to that effect, and thereupon the powers and duties of the district council,

Viscount Cross.

so far as regards the common, are, under this clause, transferred to the county council, and the management of the common vested by the scheme in that council. Under this clause one authority would practically be set up against the other, and in the opinion of the Government district councils may well be trusted with the making of these schemes.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, to leave out Clause 4."—(*Viscount Cross.*)

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY : The proposal in the clause is entirely in accordance with modern practice, and the power of appeal to the county council has been found extremely useful; it sometimes happens that the district council is not always a wise body, and that the county council, being more independent, can intervene with advantage. I do not think there is anything at all alarming in this clause.

***VISCOUNT CROSS :** There are certain expenses connected with these schemes which, if the district council has to bear them, are spread over the immediate neighbourhood of the common; but if the common is vested in the county council the expenses are spread over the whole county, the majority of the inhabitants of which have probably never been near the common in their lives.

LORD DAVEY : The noble Viscount has not seen the effect of Section 3 of Clause 4. That section provides that, where a resolution has been passed by a county council under this section, the provisions of Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1894, shall have effect. If the noble Viscount will look at Section 63 of the Local Government Act of 1894 he will see that it is there provided that, where the county council acts in default of the district council, the county council has the right to charge the cost on the district council. I take it that that is the object for which Section 3 is inserted.

On Question, "That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill," resolved in the negative.

Clause 5 :—

*VISCOUNT CROSS : This clause provides that a rural district council may delegate to a parish council any powers conferred on the district council in relation to any commons within the parish. I think the power so delegated ought to be confined to management only.

Amendment moved—

“ In page 2, line 34, after ‘powers’ to insert ‘of management.’”—(Viscount Cross.)

LORD DAVEY : The noble Viscount is probably aware that parish councils already have the power of management in regard to village greens expressly given to them by Section 8 of the Local Government Act of 1894, and I intend to move the insertion of a clause, at a later stage, to provide that nothing in this Bill shall prejudice that power.

On Question, “That these words be here inserted,” agreed to.

Clauses 6 and 7 agreed to.

Clause 8 :—

*VISCOUNT CROSS : I shall probably differ from my noble and learned friend (Lord Davey) with regard to this clause, which provides that a scheme under this Act may, with the previous consent in writing of the persons whose consents are required to a Provisional Order under the Inclosure Acts, 1845 to 1882, include provisions for “adjustment of rights” within the meaning of the Commons Act, 1876. The question of adjustment of rights is such a delicate and difficult one that I think it can be better dealt with under my Act of 1876 than by the Board of Agriculture in the manner proposed; therefore, I move to strike out Clause 8 altogether.

Amendment moved—

“ In page 3 to leave out Clause 8.”—(Viscount Cross.)

LORD DAVEY : I assumed in my observations that this clause would be struck out.

On Question, “That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill,” resolved in the negative.

Clause 9 amended and agreed to.

Clause 10 :—

*VISCOUNT CROSS : Clause 10 provides that where any common is situated in the districts of two or more district councils the county council of the county within which the common is situated shall, in relation thereto, have all the powers conferred upon a district council in relation to any common within their district, and that the Act shall apply to the county council as if that council were a district council, and the management of the common shall be vested in the county council. It seems to me, and to the Government, that, if the common is situated in the districts of two district councils, the better course would be that those two district councils should work by a committee, as provided in the Local Government Act, 1894, and that the matter should not be referred to the county council at all.

On Question, “That Clause 10 stand part of the Bill,” resolved in the negative.

Clauses 11, 12, and 13 agreed to.

Clause 14 :—

*VISCOUNT CROSS : As we have done away with the county council, the words I propose to omit are unnecessary, and this is, therefore, a consequential Amendment.

Amendment moved—

“ In page 4, to leave out from ‘shall’ in line 14 to ‘case’ in line 17.”—(Viscount Cross.)

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY : My noble friend said he had “done away with the county council.” That seems to be the general desire in this matter, but I cannot see why this jealousy of the county council should exist.

On Question, “That these words stand part of the clause,” resolved in the negative.

Clause 14, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 15 agreed to.

Clause 16 :—

*VISCOUNT CROSS : My Amendment to this clause, though it strikes out the

words "London County Council," is not in any way an attack upon that body. The following clause—Clause 17—provides that a scheme under the Bill shall not apply to any common which is the subject of a scheme made under the Metropolitan Commons Acts, 1866 to 1878, which the Department are of opinion work most satisfactorily, and which they would be very unwilling to see amended in this Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 32, after 'This' to insert 'Part of this'; and to leave out from 'apply' in line 32 to the end of the clause, and insert 'to the council of a county borough in like manner as if that council were the council of an urban district.'"—(Viscount Cross.)

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause," resolved in the negative.

On Question, "That the words proposed to be inserted stand part of the clause," agreed to.

Clause 16, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17 amended and agreed to.

Clause 18 amended and agreed to.

LORD DAVEY: I desire to move the insertion of a new clause providing that nothing in this Bill shall in any way prejudice the right of management of recreation grounds and village greens vested in parish councils by Section 8, Sub-section (1) (d), of the Local Government Act, 1894.

*VISCOUNT CROSS: I have not had time to refer to the clause, and would therefore suggest that the noble and learned Lord should put his Amendment down for the Standing Committee.

LORD DAVEY: Very well. I will do so.

Clause 19:

*VISCOUNT CROSS: This clause was framed some years ago to meet a special case. It has since been found possible to do without it, and as it is not now wanted I move its deletion.

Viscount Cross.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, to leave out Clause 19."—(Viscount Cross.)

On Question, "That Clause 19 stand part of the Bill," resolved in the negative.

Clause 20 amended and agreed to.

Clause 21:

LORD TEYNHAM: I beg to move the insertion of a new sub-section to provide that all the powers exercisable by the London County Council and other local authorities under the Open Spaces Acts of 1877 to 1890 may also be exercisable by the county council of any administrative county. The only county councils which at present possess these powers are the London County Council and the County Council of Middlesex. I think it will be admitted that the London County Council has made good use of its powers. Indeed, it may be said that the gratitude of Londoners is chiefly due to the council on account of the zeal it has displayed in acquiring open spaces and public parks in the neighbourhood of London. Middlesex obtained these powers under a private Act last year, and, although so short a time has elapsed, it has already spent £20,000 in the acquisition of open spaces, and is now prepared to spend a further sum of upwards of £20,000. Every county council, of course, will not have the same opportunities as those of London and Middlesex, but the County Councils of Kent, Surrey, Hertfordshire, Essex, and the county councils of counties in which there are large manufacturing towns will be able to make good use of these powers. I see that the noble Viscount has an Amendment to strike out Clause 21.

*VISCOUNT CROSS: I have withdrawn my Amendment to strike out the clause.

LORD TEYNHAM: Then I hope the noble Viscount will accept my addition.

Amendment moved—

"After Sub-section (3) to insert new sub-section: 'All the powers exercisable by the London County Council and other local authorities under the Open Spaces Acts, 1877 to 1890, may also be exercisable by the county council of any administrative county, and any expenses incurred by a county council under

the said Acts shall be defrayed as expenses incurred under the Local Government Act, 1888."—(Lord Teynham.)

*VISCOUNT CROSS: I have no objection to offer to this Amendment, if it is agreeable to the House.

LORD BURGHCLERE: I have examined the Amendment, which I regard as an excellent one, and one which will greatly improve the Bill.

On Question "That this sub-section be here inserted," agreed to.

Clause 21, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Bill recommitted to the Standing Committee, and to be printed as amended [No. 161.]

**MARRIAGES VALIDITY (No. 2) BILL
[H.L.]**

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*LORD MACNAGHTEN: My Lords, at the instance of several persons of great eminence in Ireland, including four very distinguished judges, chancellors of seven dioceses, and including also His Grace the Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland, and, I believe, with the full approval of the Irish Lord Chancellor, I venture to submit this Bill to your Lordships. I am not quite sure that I am in a position to do complete justice to the difficulty which has led to the introduction of this measure, because I am not an ecclesiastical lawyer, but I will explain to your Lordships in a sentence what the difficulty is. When two persons marry, one of whom resides in Ireland and the other in England, and they are married by banns, and the banns are published in the two countries to which they respectively belong, it has been suggested that the marriage is or may be invalid. That is a very startling suggestion. I am not altogether certain that I appreciate the point myself. I am informed, however, that it is quite visible to the eye of an ecclesiastical lawyer. But herein is a divergence of opinion. Ecclesiastical lawyers in Ireland say there is nothing in the point. Ecclesiastical lawyers in England of considerable eminence think that the point is a serious one, and that it is quite possible that a marriage of the sort to which I have referred might be

declared invalid. I do not think I need pursue the subject further, because I am sure your Lordships will agree with me that on such a point doubts ought not to be permitted to exist. When parties marry in good faith, believing that they are complying with the law in every particular, it is intolerable that there should be any unnecessary doubt as to the validity of the marriage. I am happy to say there is an exact precedent for this Bill. The same doubt occurred in the case of marriages solemnized under similar circumstances, where one of the parties to the marriage resided in Scotland and the other in England. An Act was passed in 1886 to remove any doubt in such a case—it is the 49 Victoria, Cap. 3. I need not trouble your Lordships with reading that Statute, because it is, *mutatis mutandis*, absolutely the same as the Bill which I now beg to move be read a second time.

Moved, "That the Bill be read 2^a."—(Lord Macnaghten.)

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The EARL OF HALSBURY): I confess that I do not share the doubt which has been raised as to the validity of marriages such as those to which the noble Lord has referred, but as some objection may be raised I think the noble Lord has done wisely in bringing forward this Bill, to which I hope your Lordships will give a Second Reading.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a (according to order); and committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS BILL [H.L.]

Amendments reported (according to order); a further Amendment made; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

QUESTIONS.

GOVERNMENT VALUERS AND THE ESTATE DUTY.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): In the absence of my noble friend the Earl of Bradford I beg to ask Her Majesty's Government a question, of which my noble friend has given private notice—namely, whether, in the event of the

Commissioners of Inland Revenue sending a valuer of their own to value property for estate duty purposes, they are entitled to withhold from the person from whom duty is claimed information with respect to the figures of such valuation; and, if so, whether it is fair and equitable that the Commissioners should do so.

*THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (Viscount CROSS): The Commissioners of Inland Revenue act, for the purposes of fixing the estate duty of a property, under the 7th Section of the Finance Act of 1894. That section provides that the capital value of the property shall be what, in their opinion, it will fetch in the open market. There are provisions for enabling them to employ valuers, if they think necessary, to enable them to form that opinion. There is nothing in the section which compels them to accept that valuation, and they are in no way bound to inform the persons of whom the duty is claimed of the figures of such valuation. It is, in fact, in the nature of advice upon which they may arrive at whatever decision they think just. Therefore the Chancellor of the Exchequer says he can see no equitable reason against their declining to give that information.

*THE EARL OF MORLEY: I think the answer is very unsatisfactory. As I understand, the successor to property has to send in his valuation. This applies specially to works of art and matters of that kind. If the Commissioners of Inland Revenue are not satisfied with that valuation, they send down their own valuer. If that valuer values at a lower price than the successor's own valuer, surely the successor ought to have the benefit. If the valuation made by the valuer appointed by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue is higher than the valuation of the successor, the latter is compelled to pay a higher succession duty. The attitude of the Inland Revenue in this matter is very much like the old game of heads I win, tails you lose.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: If I understand the matter rightly, this seems to me most iniquitously unfair. Having been responsible, with others, for the Finance Act under which all this is done,

I am not at all disposed to press the Government to fritter away the provisions of that Act, but, at the same time, I do not think it is reasonable that the Treasury should have a standard of right and wrong which is not the standard of a man in ordinary transactions. The point raised is not an infringement of the provisions of the Bill, neither would it weaken those provisions, and I therefore hope that it will receive more consideration.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of SALISBURY): I differ from the noble Earl, inasmuch as I am not responsible for the Act in any way; but I think the noble Earl is a little harsh upon the Inland Revenue, and for this reason. If it were true, as he says, that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue were following a course which no ordinary gentleman would follow in his private affairs, I think it is probable that they would come within the reach of the courts of law. If they did come within the reach of the courts of law I imagine that some patriotic citizen would bring the point practically to the test. I do not know whether it is a fact or not, but it is certainly very desirable that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue should not be, in the view of the country, exposed to the censure which the noble Earl has passed upon them.

THE MILITIA AND FOREIGN SERVICE.

LORD BRAYE: My Lords, I rise to ask the Secretary of State for War in reference to an Army Order dated 8th May, 1899, which sets forth, among other things, that in case 75 per cent. of a Militia battalion elects to serve abroad, the whole battalion will be considered liable to so serve; whether the remaining quarter of the battalion, in case it does not so consent, is liable nevertheless. I also desire to ask the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for War how many Militia battalions have up to the present time consented to serve abroad, and whether they consented unanimously, or with a minority of 25 per cent. refusing to so serve. The Army Order to which I refer has given rise to great perplexity among those interested in Militia matters, and any elucidation which the noble Marquess can find it convenient to give

will, I am sure, be hailed with great satisfaction.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I think the Army Order to which the noble Lord refers is that of the 10th of May. He has not quoted it quite accurately. What it says is that a Militia unit may be registered as available for special service if not less than 75 per cent. of the officers and men composing it offer to accept the liability. But there is no intention of enforcing the liability against any men, whether they amount to 25 per cent. or a lesser percentage, who do not voluntarily offer to accept it. This point was explained in the House of Commons by the representative of the War Office. It has not yet been found possible to register any Militia battalion as available for special service, the number of men volunteering having in no case come up to the 500 required by the Army Order. But, although no battalions have been registered as such, 3,213 infantry militiamen have engaged as individuals for special service with their line battalions, and would be available if those battalions were to be detailed for service. Of the Militia artillery eight corps have been registered, 75 per cent. of the men having volunteered in each case, and 250 men in each corps having been found to comply with the conditions laid down. These corps belong respectively to Sligo, Wicklow, Lancashire, Durham, Limerick City, Antrim, Yorkshire, and Edinburgh. Besides these, 490 Militia artillerymen have accepted the special service system liability as individuals, making in all 3,703 men of this arm. In our opinion the above facts are not sufficient to justify a conclusion as to the success of the experiment. The Army order was not issued till May 10th, when some corps had begun their training and others were assembling. These corps had, consequently, insufficient notice of the liability to seven days' extra training which is required of all men accepted for special service. In the circumstances it is not unsatisfactory that we should have made even a comparatively small beginning, and we hope that the numbers will be largely increased when the conditions offered are more generally understood.

LORD BRAYE: The point I desire to

have elucidated is whether, if 75 per cent. of the Militia battalion elect to serve abroad, the remaining 25 per cent. would be at liberty to retire from the battalion, or must they go abroad with the others.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I hope I have made it quite evident that there will be no compulsion on the 25 per cent. of the battalion to serve with their comrades who have accepted special service liability. The manner in which they might be disposed of is a question which will have to be considered when the occasion arises; but I would suggest that one way of doing it would be, in the case where there are two Militia battalions, to transfer the 25 per cent. temporarily to the other battalion.

LORD BRAYE: I understand that, although the word "unanimous" is not used in the Army Order, a Militia battalion must consent unanimously to serve abroad before it can be sent; that is to say, if one single man in a battalion refuses so to serve, the whole battalion would be counted as having voted against serving abroad. What I want to know is whether the 75 per cent. mentioned in the Order is to be considered as equivalent to a unanimous consent.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: If the noble Lord will allow me to show him afterwards the Act of Parliament upon which these arrangements depend, as well as the Army Order which carries out the Act of Parliament, I think I shall be able to explain to him what I admit is an intricate matter, and one which I think at the present moment he does not quite understand.

MEETINGS OF CONVOCATION.

LORD KINNAIRD: My Lords, I beg to ask Her Majesty's Government whether a joint assembly of members of the two Convocations is not in fact a meeting of the Convocations, and therefore illegal without a licence from the Crown. I understand that those who summoned the special meeting of the Convocations referred to anticipated that there would be some difficulty, because the public Press had referred to the assembly as an irregular meeting. They thought, however, that by not meeting as Convocation, but as individuals, they could evade the custom or the law by which it is necessary to obtain a licence from the Crown before they met. It may be that the

affair is not of much importance in itself, but, in view of recent events in the Church, it is desirable to look rather closely into these matters. Questions of considerable importance may have been discussed at the meeting, but as it was held in private, the public do not know what went on there. I wish to know whether the Government consider that the proceedings were irregular.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR : I hope the noble Lord will forgive me for saying that his question is not whether these proceedings were or were not irregular. The question is, whether the proceedings were illegal. The noble Lord is quite right in suggesting that it is a question of fact, and certainly no Member of Her Majesty's Government could give an answer to the question without knowing more about the facts than the noble Lord has disclosed. I know nothing more about the proceedings than what the noble Lord has just mentioned, and these facts do not appear in the question on the Paper. The fact that some gentlemen met together in private and discussed questions of interest, although they had reference to important matters which had lately been discussed elsewhere, does not necessarily in point of law make that a meeting of the Convocations ; and whether that constituted such a meeting I, as an individual Member of Her Majesty's Government, am not prepared to affirm. I should hesitate to answer such a question until I knew absolutely what was done ; in what character these gentlemen came together, and whether or not they were invested with any particular mission from anybody else, or purported to act themselves in any official character. I should hesitate to express any opinion upon a subject which might become a matter of debate in a court of law ; but if the noble Lord were to ask me, even as an abstract point of law, whether a sitting of convocation without Her Majesty's licence was illegal, I would have no difficulty in answering him ; but he would not require my assistance as to the answer to that question. In these circumstances I can only say, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, that the facts which the noble Lord has brought forward are insufficient to enable them to form a judgment.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY : I am a little astonished at the profound ignorance

of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack as to what has taken place, because I thought the noble and learned Lord, in common with most of us, read the newspaper reports of what took place at meetings of Convocation. I should have thought that he would have known that after the regular meeting of Convocation there was, according to the intelligence which has reached the public, a meeting of the two Convocations together. It is said that that was only a meeting of the members of the two Convocations. I do not wish to impute to those gentlemen any desire to evade the law, but to the ordinary mind it looks uncommonly like it. I do not pretend that anything very serious would arise from the meeting, and I certainly should not have said a word about the subject except for the fact that I could not help thinking, when I read the account which appeared in many newspapers, that this was part and parcel of what is going on in the Church, and of an ardent desire on the part of a good many people connected with the Church of England to pass by, if they can, the civil power. It is only from that point of view that I attach any importance to this question. I have not the least objection to the two Convocations meeting together, but I do feel jealous of anything being done by a side wind, especially at the present moment, which is not authorised by the law of the land. Therefore I have a certain amount of sympathy with the question which the noble Lord (Lord Kinnaird) has asked. The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has asked that a case should be drawn up. I do not feel competent to do that, and I do not think it is necessary that a case should be laid before the Government. It is the business of the Government to watch everything of this kind, and to see that nothing is done which in any way passes by the prerogative of the Crown.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY : My Lords, I am loth to confess that I do not study ecclesiastical literature with the devotion of the noble Earl, and I was utterly ignorant that this awful thing had taken place. I thought the Convocation of York met at York, and the Convocation of Canterbury at Canterbury, and how both could possibly meet together immediately afterwards I fail to imagine. It is a very terrible thing which the noble

Lord has discovered, but I think, when he has discovered a gunpowder plot of this kind, he ought to go further into it, and supply us with more detail. It is impossible for this Assembly to recover from the shock it has sustained unless we know the precise nature of the conspiracy against our civil law to which the noble Lord has alluded in his question. I would suggest to the noble Earl for his comfort, if this thing disturbs his sleep, that this confusion has arisen from his not sufficiently dwelling upon the word "meetings," and the different meanings of it. I doubt very much whether it is illegal for the members of Convocation to meet if they come across each other in a room, but, if they meet for the purpose of exercising any of the powers which belong to Convocation, I suppose they would be assuming powers which they did not possess, and would be acting, if not illegally, in a highly unconstitutional manner. I doubt exceedingly whether the members of Convocation do not put more value on their own time than to go through a process which would be entirely destitute of result. Quarter sessions cannot meet without a licence from the Crown; but if the magistrates meet together in the county town no one would ever dream of calling it un-constitutional. The doctrine laid down by the noble Earl is that all Englishmen are at liberty to meet where they please unless they happen to be invested with some ecclesiastical authority. That is a limitation of our rights which the noble Earl will have to explain more clearly. So far as I can see, I am afraid the noble Lord has discovered a mare's nest, which I suppose is something like a bishop's nest.

House adjourned at a quarter before Six of the clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 10th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

INVERNESS HARBOUR BILL [Lords].

Lords Amendment to Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

NOTTINGHAM CORPORATION BILL.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

TRANSVAAL MORTGAGE LOAN AND FINANCE COMPANY BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

FURNESS RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; an Amendment made; Bill to be read the third time.

GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS AND WATER) BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

GLASGOW CORPORATION (TRAMWAYS, ETC.) BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

GREAT YARMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

KIRKCALDY CORPORATION AND TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

LOWESTOFT WATER AND GAS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

TOTLAND WATER BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

FYLDE WATER BOARD BILL [Lords].

To be read a second time To-morrow.

HASTINGS HARBOUR BILL [Lords].

WOLVERHAMPTON CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [Lords]. (By Order.)

Read a second time, and committed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20.) BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [Lords].

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP M).

Mr. LAURENCE HARDY reported from the Committee on Group M of Private Bills, That the parties promoting the Clyde Navigation Bill [Lords] had stated that the evidence of John T. Costigane was essential to their case; and, it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said John T. Costigane do attend the said Committee To-morrow, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, That John T. Costigane do attend the Committee on Group M of Private Bills To-morrow, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP K).

Colonel GUNTER reported from the Committee on Group K of Private Bills; That, to meet the convenience of parties, they had adjourned till Monday, the 17th of July.

Report to lie upon the Table.

BEXHILL AND ST. LEONARDS TRAM-ROADS BILL [Lords].

Reported [preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petitions in favour from Mitcham, Castleton, and Lombardian Building Society; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petitions for alteration of Law from Stewarton and Monifieth; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY (CORRESPONDENCE).

Return presented relative thereto [ordered 3rd July; Mr. Lecky]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Copy presented of Treasury Minute, dated 3rd July, 1899, declaring that Henry Gwilliam, Artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT (INSPECTORS).

Return presented relative thereto [Address 13th March; Mr. Provand]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 272.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

LOCAL TAXATION (CUSTOMS AND EXCISE) ACT, 1890.

EDUCATION AND LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1892.

AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1896.

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1898.

Copy presented of Return showing the total payments into and out of the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account, for the Financial Year 1898-9 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (JUDICIAL RENTS).

Copy presented of Return for the month of December, 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2312 to 2314 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS.

FORTHCOMING NAVAL MANOEUVRES.

SIR EDWARD GOURLEY (Sunderland): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he will be good enough to state what arrangements are intended to be made for the mobilisation of the Channel and Coastguard Squadron for the summer manoeuvres; are they to be similar to those of 1897 or those of last

year, which were of a limited character owing to the coal dispute in Wales; will he state the number and type of ships that are to be mobilised, and whether the tactics will be those of attack or those of defence of the English Channel and other approaches to naval, military, and commercial harbours; and will he also state the number of men of the Coastguard and first and second class Naval Reserves who are to be embarked, and for what period.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): The information desired by the hon. Member will be promulgated shortly, but I may say that the manoeuvres will be strategical. The number of Coastguard to be embarked will be 1,500, for about one month. About 400 Royal Naval Reserve men, who are serving for six months, will also be borne in the ships during the manoeuvres.

In answer to a further question by Sir Edward Gourley which was inaudible in the gallery,

MR. GOSCHEN said: The composition of the squadron will be about the same as before.

SCOTTISH FISHERIES—H.M.S. “JACKAL.”

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he is aware that out of the 119 days between 1st January and the 29th April H.M.S. “Jackal,” which is employed on sea police duty for the Scottish Fishery Board, was actually at sea for only 77 days, and seeing that this shows that in the short space of four months the vessel was in port for no less than 42 days, can any arrangements be made under which the work for which the vessel is detailed is more zealously performed.

MR. GOSCHEN: I do not think that the “Jackal” has been actually at sea for as long as 77 days, but no complaints have been received at the Admiralty from the Fishery Board for Scotland as to her work not being zealously performed.

MR. WEIR: Has the right hon. Gentleman read the answer given on this matter by the Lord Advocate the other day?

MR. GOSCHEN: Yes, Sir.

MR. WEIR: I shall put another question on this.

EXPANDING BULLETS.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether the bullet known as the Mark IV. missile is manufactured at Woolwich at the present time, and whether over two million rounds of this kind of ammunition are held in reserve stock; whether this missile is now being served out to the British soldiers in South Africa; and whether this bullet is expressly constructed so as to expand on impact, and on that account possesses the quality of the Dum-Dum bullet, which, according to report, has been condemned at the Peace Conference at the Hague.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR** (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): Cartridges with Mark IV. bullet are being manufactured at Woolwich; and a supply of this ammunition has been sent to South Africa.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): Hear, hear.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Shame!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must be aware that the word “shame,” as used by him, is not a proper word in this House.

MR. DILLON: I apologise, Mr. Speaker, for using the word.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Someone cried “Hear, hear.” Perhaps that ought not to have been said.

***MR. WYNDHAM** (resuming): I am not prepared to state the quantity of this ammunition at present in stock. The bullet is constructed to expand on impact. Pending the receipt of a final report from our representatives at the Conference I must decline to discuss the bearing of any conclusion at which the Conference have arrived.

MR. DILLON: May I ask whether any medical experiments have been made through the War Office with reference to the effect of this bullet before it was adopted by the authorities?

*MR. WYNDHAM : A great many experiments have been made, and some are even now being carried on ; but it is quite impossible to discuss this question by way of question and answer without importing argument into my reply. I avoided that because I am aware that the hon. Member is precluded from using argument.

MR. DILLON : Will the hon. Member include the result of the medical experiments in regard to this bullet in the papers dealing with the original Dum-Dum bullet promised by the Secretary for India to be laid upon the Table of the House in the course of the next few days ?

*MR. WYNDHAM : I must ask for notice of that question.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL : Were some of the Dum-Dums made in Sheffield ?

UPKEEP OF SCOTTISH CASTLES.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he can state the average annual sum spent in the maintenance and upkeep of the Castles of Edinburgh, Stirling, and Blackness, during the ten years 1889-98, excluding sums spent on new barrack accommodation in these places.

*MR. WYNDHAM : The annual average charge during the last sixteen years for the maintenance and upkeep of the castles named in the question, excluding new services, has been £1,537.

CHELSEA BARRACKS SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL PRYCE-JONES (Montgomery Boroughs) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that at the School of Instruction at Chelsea Barracks the accommodation afforded to officers attending the school for changing their dress is far from satisfactory ; and that the lavatory arrangements in connection with the same school are unsatisfactory ; whether he is aware that a trifling outlay would effect these improvements, and would be much appreciated by officers attending the classes ; and whether he will make inquiries in reference to these matters, and, if afterwards found advisable, will take the necessary steps to carry out the suggested improvements.

*MR. WYNDHAM : No complaint as to the accommodation at Chelsea Barracks

has been received from the officers concerned. Any representation on the subject should be made through the General commanding the Home District.

NATIVE INDIAN TROOPS SERVING OUT OF INDIA.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state what Indian troops are now serving outside the limits of India, and in what places ; and whether the expenses of any of the troops so serving outside India are borne by the Indian Exchequer.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing) : The 1st Bengal Infantry, at the Mauritius, is the only regiment of the Indian Army now employed outside the limits of India. Besides these there are a certain number of volunteers from various Indian regiments who are in the service of the Uganda and other companies. The expenses of none of them are borne by the Indian Exchequer.

BRITISH TRADE IN THE NIGER PROTECTORATE.

MR. J. E. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what have been the figures of trade (imports and exports separately) for each of the ten years 1889 to 1898 between the United Kingdom and the Niger Protectorate ; whether any expense has been borne by the Imperial Exchequer in relation to that protectorate since the grant of the charter ; and, in that case, what has been the total sum so charged, and for what purpose.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) : The trade of the United Kingdom with the Niger Protectorate (exclusive of the territory administered by the Niger Company) for the years 1889-1898 was as follows—

	Imports	Exports
	£	£
Aug. 1, 1891—July 31, 1892	580,177	427,264
" 1, 1892—	625,444	497,469
Apl. 1, 1893—Mch. 31, 1894	697,483	491,765
" 1, 1894—	581,230	463,171
" 1, 1895—	575,447	536,537
" 1, 1896—	563,291	546,466
" 1, 1897—	504,602	497,589

Earlier returns cannot be given, as the Niger Coast Protective Administration

only commenced in August, 1891. Up to the 31st of December, 1893, the Commissioner's salary was charged to Imperial Funds, out of which also an advance of £14,000 was made for initial expenses. This was repaid in 1893-94, and the Protectorate has since been self-supporting.

DELAGOA BAY ARBITRATION.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will ascertain when the award in regard to the Delagoa Bay Arbitration is likely to be made.

***MR. BRODRICK:** It is believed that the award will be given not later than October next.

ST. PETERSBURG HERRING IMPORTS.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in view of the fact that up to the 30th of June the Foreign Office has received no reply to the representations of Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg for improved facilities for the discharge and storage of herrings, will he state whether any reply has now been received, and if not, will renewed representations be made at an early date.

***MR. BRODRICK:** There is no progress to report in this matter, and Her Majesty's Ambassador will exercise his discretion as to pressing it again on the Russian Government.

THE UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

COMMANDER BETHELL (York E. R., Holderness) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Mr. Berkeley has resigned the Commissionership of the Uganda Protectorate, and whether any successor to him has been appointed.

***MR. BRODRICK:** I regret to say that in consequence of illness Mr. Berkeley, the Commissioner and Consul-General of the Uganda Protectorate, has been forced to resign his appointment. The Secretary of State, considering that order has now been restored in the Protectorate and that the railway is far advanced, thinks this a fitting time to send a Special Commissioner to Uganda to report what posts it is desirable to establish, especially in view of Colonel Martyr's advance on the Nile. For this purpose he proposes to avail himself of the administrative experience of

Sir Harry Johnston, who will be appointed with full powers to administer the Protectorate and with the same control of the military forces as is given to other Governors, also holding special appointments as Commanders-in-Chief.

BRITISH CONSULAR SHIPPING OFFICE AT NEW YORK.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to an article in the *Shipping World* of 24th May, 1899, concerning the shipping office of Her Majesty's Consul-General at New York; whether that office is situated at a great distance from the general office of the Consulate-General, and is crowded by boarding-house keepers, crimps, and low characters, whose presence on the occasions when seamen are engaged and discharged leads habitually to scenes of intimidation, disturbance and outrage; and whether he does or does not have made out in his own office and there handed to the seamen the advance notes, which, it is alleged, they are at present compelled to give up to the boarding-house keeper.

***MR. BRODRICK:** My attention has been called to the article mentioned in the question. Several reports have from time to time been received from Her Majesty's Consul-General on the subject of the arrangements in force for the engagement and discharge of seamen at New York. The Consular shipping office, which is in the same street and close to the general office of the Consul-General, is open to the public, and no persons desiring to resort to it for business purposes are excluded so long as they conduct themselves with propriety. The question whether on the occasions when seamen are engaged or discharged the office should be cleared of all persons not immediately concerned in the transaction is under consideration. It is not the fact that disorderly scenes are of common occurrence in the Consulate. In an office where upwards of 20,000 seamen are engaged and discharged annually it is practically inevitable that disturbances should occasionally take place, but such incidents are exceptional, and generally no difficulty is experienced in keeping order. With regard to advance notes, I should state that the payment of

an advance to a seaman is a criminal offence according to United States law.

JAMAICA RAILWAY DEBENTURE HOLDERS.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Jamaica Government has now carried out its engagement with the debenture holders of the Jamaica Railway, which have been in default for more than two years.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) : The Government of Jamaica is bound by the provisions of a Colonial Law—the Railway Law of 1889—to make certain payments and to issue certain Colonial Government stock to the holders of first mortgage bonds of the Jamaica Railway Company upon the railway being vested in the Government by an order of the Supreme Court of the colony. No such order has yet been made. Consequently, there has been no delay on the part of the Government.

JAMAICA AND THE UNITED STATES.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a Treaty of Reciprocity has been concluded between the island of Jamaica and the United States of America ; and, in such a case, if he can state the general terms thereof, and particularly if it gives any privilege or preference to American goods over British goods in a British colony.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : A Provisional Reciprocity Convention has been made with the United States of America on behalf of Jamaica. Full particulars have not yet been received, but it is understood that the general effect is that on the convention coming into operation the import duties in the United States of America on sugar and certain fruits produced in Jamaica will be reduced, and the import duties in Jamaica on various articles largely imported from the United States of America will be reduced or abolished. The Provisional Convention is subject to ratification by Her Majesty's Government on behalf of the colony and by the President and Senate of the United States. The Convention gives no privilege or preference to American goods over British goods.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) : Is there anything in the Con-

vention which would prevent the extension to British trade of a system similar to the Canadian tariff ?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : I am not aware of anything.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.—SIR W. BUTLER'S DESPATCHES.

MR. DILLON : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any despatches received from Sir William Butler during the period covered by the last Blue Book on affairs of South African Republic [C. 9345] have been withheld ; and whether a Minute of the Cape Government on the affairs of the Transvaal was forwarded by Sir William Butler, and has not been printed in the Blue Book.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : Sir William Butler transmitted a great number of Resolutions passed by meetings of the South African League, and in two instances sent Minutes of the Cape Government commenting on the Resolutions. Neither these Resolutions nor the comments of the Cape Government upon them have been included in the Blue Book [C. 9345], but there is no objection to their publication. In the preparation of papers for publication I have followed the usual practice and have included everything essential to the proper understanding of their subject.

MR. DILLON : My question had reference to the period when Sir William Butler was acting as *locum tenens* for Sir Alfred Milner. I wish to know whether any despatch has been received giving the opinions of Sir William Butler, which has been suppressed.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : A despatch giving the opinion of Sir William Butler is published in the Blue Book. Beyond that I cannot give any information.

SALE OF MEDICINE STAMPS IN SCOTLAND.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee) : I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state the amount of revenue derived from the sale of medicine stamps in Scotland for the years ended 31st March, 1898 and 1899 respectively.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.) : The stamp revenue derived from the sale of patent medicine stamps in Scotland was in 1897-8 £2,127, and

in 1898-9 £2,142. Patent medicine vendors' excise licenses were also taken out to the value of £643 in 1897-8, and £667 in 1898-9.

INLAND REVENUE DUTY RETURNS.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether collectors, supervisors, and officers of Inland Revenue have to make weekly returns of duties paid; whether such returns are furnished to the Accountant and Comptroller-General at Somerset House every week by about 467 officials from all parts of the United Kingdom, though the same returns as vouchers are sent up at the close of each month; and whether, to check such weekly returns, a large and expensive staff of clerks is employed at Somerset House; and, if so, whether he will cause inquiry to be made as to the utility of such a system of weekly accounts, and the justification for great cost thereof to the taxpayers.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: Each collector of Inland Revenue furnishes to the Accountant and Comptroller-General at Somerset House a weekly petty account unvouched, containing a simple summary of receipts, the total repayments or charges defrayed therefrom, and the net produce. Independent weekly returns are also sent in by supervisors in charge of districts. Collectors also render monthly accounts of their detailed receipts and disbursements, with vouchers, etc., ten days after the close of each month. Weekly returns are necessary both for the purpose of keeping the Chief Office informed of the movements of the Revenue and to guard against the risk of loss to the Exchequer. The expenditure of time and money involved in the local preparation of the weekly returns and their examination at headquarters is quite inconsiderable.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE BUILDINGS.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the conference of representatives of the interests concerned in the future of the Imperial Institute buildings has now arrived at an agreement; and, if so, whether he is in a position to indicate its general purport.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I believe that the Committee appointed by the

University, the Institute, and the Treasury have now come to an arrangement which is mutually satisfactory. The terms will be at once submitted to the Senate and the Council for ratification, and as soon as this has been received they will be embodied in a Treasury Minute, which will be presented to the House.

THE LOCKOUT IN THE WELSH COAL TRADE.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of his statement to Messrs. Liston and Kenshole on 13th May last in reference to the claim of certain tradesmen for payment in respect of catering for the military brought to Aberdare during the lockout in the coal trade last summer, that it was not equitable that pending the settlement of the question of liability as between the Government and the Glamorgan County Council, the tradesmen concerned should remain altogether without payment, and having regard to his promise on the same date that in the event of an appeal from the decision of Justices Darling and Channell the Treasury would endeavour to arrange with the county council for an immediate payment to the tradesmen, and such an appeal having been made, he can state what steps have been taken to secure the immediate payment promised.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: In accordance with my promise, I brought the matter to the notice of the War Office and suggested that they should place themselves in communication with the County Council of Glamorgan, with a view, if possible, of arranging for some payment to be made to the tradesmen concerned, half being paid by the War Office, and half by the county council, temporarily and without prejudice, the ultimate incidence of the charge remaining over for settlement later on. I understand that a communication has been addressed by the War Office to the county council. This would have been done earlier but for the fact that for some weeks past a definite legal decision upon the point has been daily expected.

PORTMAHOMACK HARBOUR.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that some years back fishermen and others dependent on Portmahomack Harbour for the

prosecution of their calling addressed a memorial to the Fishery Board for Scotland, fully setting forth the circumstances under which a grant in aid of the improvement of the harbour is required ; and will the Secretary for Scotland call for that Memorial and give the points raised therein full consideration.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) : The Secretary for Scotland is quite aware of the fact referred to by the hon. Member, but I have nothing to add to the reply I have already given to him on the 7th instant.

LIGHTS ON THE ROSS-SHIRE COAST.

MR. WEIR : I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state whether the scheme now under the consideration of the Congested Districts Board includes provision for any minor lights for the west coast of Ross-shire.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY : The Congested Districts Board informs me that there has been no application for minor lights for the west coast of Ross-shire.

ATTACKS ON MEDICAL MEN IN EAST LONDON.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the letter of Dr. Stonham, of Albert Square, Commercial Road, in which he states that he was attacked and robbed at four o'clock in the afternoon, and that recently another medical man was similarly attacked and robbed in the main thoroughfare about noon, and in which he complains that the police force in the East End of London is undermanned ; and whether, as the ratepayers of this quarter of London contribute their quota towards the maintenance of the Metropolitan Police, he will give them the same measure of protection as that which is accorded to the West End.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) : Equal regard is paid to the requirements of the East of London as to any other

part of the Metropolitan Police District. In both the two particular cases of assault mentioned in the question it appears that offenders have been arrested and brought to justice. I have, however, called the attention of the Commissioner of Police to this matter.

VACCINATION PROSECUTIONS AT MARLOW.

MR. PICKERSGILL : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the heavy penalties, namely, fines of one guinea each, in addition to costs, imposed by the Buckinghamshire magistrates at Marlow on Friday last upon two labouring men for the non-vaccination of their children ; and whether he will consider these cases, with a view to the mitigation of the penalties, so as to avoid the committal of two respectable men to prison.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY : I have fully inquired into the circumstances of this case and the position of the defendants, and find no ground for intervention.

TITHE RENT CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts., Mansfield) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, under Sub-section (2), of Clause 2, of the Tithe Rent Charge (Rates) Bill, there will be a remission of half the rates payable by the City of London clergy, who, under the Acts of 22 and 23 Charles II., cap. 15, and 4 Anne, cap. 27, receive certain fixed payments in lieu of the tithes payable to them previous to the fire of London.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby) : My impression is that the payments to which the hon. Member refers are not rateable, and if this be so the Bill would not, of course, have any effect so far as they were concerned.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he will state the amount which under the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill will be deducted from the share of the administrative county of Montgomery in the Estate Duty grant.

*MR. LONG: The share of Montgomeryshire in a sum of £87,000 distributed in the proportion of what are known as the discontinued grants would amount to £229.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether the benefices of Carno, Landinam, Lanidloes, Llanwnog, and Trefeglwys, in the County of Montgomery, each of which has a share of tithe rent-charge belonging to Bangor Cathedral, will be relieved under the Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill from half the rates payable on those shares.

*MR. LONG: In the absence of more precise information as to the nature of the arrangement which has been carried out in the case of the benefices to which the hon. Member refers, it is not possible for me to express an opinion as to whether there has been any such attachment of the rent-charge to the benefices as to entitle the incumbents to relief in respect thereof. We ourselves have no record of any transfer of tithe rent-charge from the Dean and Chapter of Bangor to the incumbents of the parishes in question since the commutation.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouth, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he can state the total amount of tithe rent-charge attached to benefices which are under the patronage of private persons.

*MR. LONG: I have made inquiries, but I have been unable to obtain the information asked for by the hon. Member. It is not a matter in regard to which any official particulars are available.

ILL-TREATMENT OF PAUPER CHILDREN.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, West Riding, Rotherham): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to the fact that a pauper, placed by the Bristol Guardians in charge of remanded boys, has been committed for twenty-one days by the Bristol magistrates for thrashing one of these boys named Offer with a

strap and cutting a piece of flesh from him; and whether he will, in accordance with the Departmental Committee, take some steps to remove such boys from the association of the workhouse.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I have communicated with the Clerk to the Bristol Guardians about the case mentioned, and I am informed that boys remanded to the workhouse are not placed by the guardians in the charge of pauper inmates. They are received by the porter and at once handed over to the receiving ward attendant, who is responsible for them during their stay in the workhouse. The pauper referred to in the question was employed in an adjoining ward. He ought to have had nothing to do with the boys; and I have given directions that further investigation shall be made as to the circumstances of this case. The inquiry of the Poor Law Schools Committee to which the hon. Member refers only related to schools in the metropolis.

ART COLLECTIONS AT HERTFORD HOUSE.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works when the collections of works of art at Hertford House will be open to the public.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): The structural works at Hertford House will, I expect, be finished within a month or six weeks. I cannot say how long it may take to arrange the collections, a work which will be in the hands of the trustees.

RE-ENGAGEMENT OF RETIRED SECOND DIVISION CLERKS.

MR. BARTLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the case of a Second Division clerk who was pensioned for ill-health, but who is now quite well again, and has applied to be reinstated as contemplated by the Superannuation Act of 1859; whether he

is aware that the Civil Service Commissioners state that they are not empowered to deal with such cases ; and whether he will state who is the authority to whom application should be made, so that the State may be relieved of the cost of a pensioner who is still young and able and willing to give up his pension and work.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston) : The clerk referred to in the question should apply to the Treasury, who will cause inquiry to be made into his health, mental and bodily. If the result is in all respects satisfactory, he will be recalled to the Second Division.

THE MOY POSTMASTER.

DR. ROBERT AMBROSE (Mayo, W.) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether his attention has been drawn to the appointment of Mr. Morrison, of Moy, County Tyrone, to the position of Clerk of Petty Sessions of the Moy district of County Tyrone ; whether he is aware that Mr. Morrison already holds the position of postmaster for the same district ; and whether it is competent for a postmaster to hold the position of Petty Sessions Clerk also.

MR. HANBURY : The Postmaster of Moy, Mr. Morrison, received permission several years ago to become a candidate for the position of Petty Sessions Clerk, and this permission was renewed to him recently. It is not considered desirable that a postmaster should hold the position of Petty Sessions Clerk, and the permission to become a candidate for it will not be granted in any future case.

BELFAST POST OFFICE.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether any representations have reached him respecting the defective lavatory accommodation at present provided for the female section of the telegraph staff of the Belfast Post Office ; and can it be stated what was the numerical strength of the female staff when this accommodation was first provided, and what is the total number of females at present on the Belfast staff, comprising

appointed, auxiliaries, and season substitutes ; and whether, seeing that the lavatory is almost immediately off the female dining room, from which it is separated by a small dressing or cloak room, there is any objection to the local sanitary authorities making an inspection of the internal sanitary arrangements of the Belfast office, and taking such steps as the necessities of the case may seem to require.

MR. HANBURY : No such representations have been received. When the accommodation was provided in 1887 the number of women employed was twenty-eight; it is now sixty-seven. The accommodation is substantially as described in the question, but a considerable enlargement of the Belfast Post Office, which has been for some time in progress, is approaching completion, and in a short time the women's retiring room will be much enlarged and improved, a new dining room will be opened in another part of the building, and the sanitary conveniences will be removed to the floor above. In the meanwhile there is no objection to the local sanitary authority making arrangements to inspect the post office premises.

COLERAINE POSTMASTERSHIP.

MR. MACALEESE : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, why applications have not been invited for the Postmastership of Coleraine, seeing that the gentleman acting in that capacity has been promoted to Dundalk ; and whether he can state when applications will be invited ; or is it in contemplation to fill the Coleraine vacancy by importing another Englishman.

MR. HANBURY : The usual steps are being taken to fill the vacancy referred to.

GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will lay upon the Table a copy of the agreement which, according to his statement, he had made with the Telephone Company.

MR. HANBURY: I understood that this question was not to be put. As a matter of fact, a copy of the agreement will be embodied in the Papers.

DELAYED DELIVERY OF AUSTRALIAN MAIIS.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, what was the cause of the delay in delivering the Australian mails brought by the Orient steamer "Orizaba," which were landed in Naples on Saturday, July 1st, and did not reach London until Wednesday last; and whether any facilities for the reasonably rapid transmission of colonial mails from Naples are in contemplation.

MR. HANBURY: The Australian mails landed at Naples from the packet "Orizaba" were despatched from Naples by the 11 p.m. train on Saturday, the 1st instant, and reached London late on Tuesday afternoon, and not on Wednesday, as the hon. Member supposes. The correspondence was delivered on Tuesday evening in London, with the exception of some outlying suburbs. It appears that the mail was detained some hours at Rome, in consequence of an irregularity in the Italian railway service south of that city, which is being enquired into. The Postmaster-General has recently been in communication with the Italian and French Post Offices on the general question of the Continental transit of Australian mails landed at Naples; and in each country arrangements have been made which are expected to prove satisfactory.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPROVEMENT CHARGES—(IRELAND).

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether the Order of the Irish Local Government Board, fixing the area of charge in the matter of Castlerea, Claremorris, and other local water and sanitary improvements over the respective unions in which these towns are situated, is according to law; and if he will kindly say what specific law compels a ratepayer living 15 miles away from the enjoyment of a possible advantage from such expenditure to contribute towards these water and sanitary improvements.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): In the absence of my right hon. friend I will reply to this question. The Local Government Board claim to exercise this power under the 232nd Section of the Public Health Act, 1878. Doubts have been expressed as to the validity of the Order mentioned, and, as stated by me in the Debate on the Estimates, the matter is now under consideration by the Government.

MR. DAVITT: Can the right hon. Gentleman say how soon we may expect the decision?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Well, I think it will be found necessary to invalidate the Order by law.

MR. DILLON: I hope we shall have good notice of what is to be done.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can see his way to recommend to Her Majesty's Government the disarmament of the Royal Irish Constabulary and the reorganisation of the force on similar lines to the English and Scotch police.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot see my way to doing that.

MR. DILLON: Has the right hon. Gentleman's attention been drawn to the fact that in consequence of a remonstrance from the Home Government the police of Johannesburg have been disarmed?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

IRISH LOAN FUNDS BILL.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Government to proceed during this session with the Irish Loan Funds Bill.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Yes, if I have the opportunity. But I think that probably more depends upon the hon. Member and his friends than upon me.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: The right hon. Gentleman does me too much honour.

IRISH CROWN SOLICITOR'S OFFICE.

MR. CRILLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what are the grounds on which a new office has been created in the Department of the Chief Crown Solicitor of Ireland; what is the salary attached to the new office; what scale of superannuation is to be allowed; and whether any appointment has as yet been made in respect to the office of second assistant to the Chief Crown Solicitor.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The office of Second Assistant to the Chief Crown Solicitor, Ireland, has been created by the Irish Government with the approval of the Treasury, because it was considered essential that there should be at headquarters a permanent official assisting and representing the Chief Crown Solicitor in the conduct of Government business. No addition has been made to the staff of the Chief Crown Solicitor by the creation of this new post, the gentleman appointed to it being Mr. William George Towers, who has already rendered excellent service as assistant since 1888. The salary attached to the new post is £500, progressing to £600 per annum. The allowance for personal clerks at present drawn by the Chief Crown Solicitor will henceforth be reduced by £500 a year, that being the remuneration paid to Mr. Towers prior to his appointment on the permanent staff. Mr. Towers will be entitled to superannuation on the scale prescribed by the Superannuation Acts.

STEAM TRAWLING OFF THE IRISH COAST.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, considering the number of steam trawlers that fish along the Irish coasts since they were prohibited from fishing within three miles of the Scotch coast, and the great damage they have done and are doing on the Irish coasts, the Government will consider the advisability of reverting to their former policy of prohibiting steam trawling within three miles of the Irish coast; is the Government aware that the steam trawlers ignore the bye-laws made by the inspectors of Irish Fisheries prohibiting steam trawling in certain waters; what steps have the Government taken to en-

force these bye-laws; and, pending legislation, what steps does the Government propose to take to protect Irish fishermen from loss, and to enforce the observance of the bye-laws the inspectors deem necessary.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am not aware how this matter stands in Scotland, but there never has been a general law or policy of prohibiting trawling within the three-mile limit of the Irish coast. Prohibitory bye-laws have been made to suit the circumstances of particular localities. I am informed that the area around Ireland which is closed to trawling was never so extensive as at present. With regard to the last three paragraphs, I have nothing to add to the reply previously given by me on the 5th May to the question of the hon. Member for Dublin County, North, on the same subject.

MR. POWER: In view of the damage that these steam trawlers are doing to Irish fisheries, and bearing in mind the promise given by the First Lord when steam trawling was prohibited off Scotland, will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to provide a gunboat to prevent the steam trawling now going on around the Irish coasts?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I hope that that may be done under the provisions of the Agricultural Industries Bill.

MR. POWER: Will the right hon. Gentleman make representations to the Admiralty?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I have frequently done so.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the steam trawling goes on on Sundays as well as week days?

(No answer was given.)

BALTIMORE RAILWAY AND PIER.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): On behalf of the hon. Member for Dublin, St. Patrick, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board, the Treasury, and the Cork and Bandon Railway Company guaranteed £3,500 each for the completion of the Baltimore Railway and Pier to deep water; whether

the Cork and Bandon Railway Company have not fulfilled their agreement; whether the Congested Districts Board will take up the completion of this work; whether he is aware that in consequence of this want of connection the large amount previously expended cannot be utilised for the transit of fish; and whether he will recommend a grant for the purpose.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Congested Districts Board in 1894 offered to contribute the amount mentioned towards the cost of constructing a pier at Baltimore. No such contribution has been offered by the railway company. In reference to the last three paragraphs, I must refer the hon. Member to my reply to the question of the hon. Member for the Western Division of Cork, on the 22nd of February 1897, to which I have nothing to add.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposes to make a statement as to the Bills which the Government really intend to carry into law with the present session. I beg also to ask the right hon. Gentleman when he proposes to take the Report stage of the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill.

DR. FARQUHARSON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state the intention of the Government with reference to the Lunacy Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I hope to be able to make a statement about the business of the House on Thursday next or Monday next.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will state when the Scottish Estimates will be taken.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Next Friday.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I desire to ask the First Lord of the Treasury a question of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether he has any information to give the House with regard to the

progress of the negotiations with the Transvaal.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I shall be glad if the right hon. Gentleman would address the question to the Colonial Secretary, who is the proper Minister to deal with the subject.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I did not intend any disrespect to the Colonial Secretary, but I thought the matter was one of such importance that it would be the chief representative of the Government who would reply.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The matter is at present rather in a confused state. We do not ourselves entirely understand what has been proposed, and I would therefore prefer that the right hon. Gentleman should give notice for tomorrow.

NEW MEMBERS SWORN.

Sir John Austin, Baronet, for County of York, West Riding (Osgoldcross Division);

Alfred Emmott, Esquire, Borough of Oldham;

Walter Runciman, Junior, Esquire, Borough of Oldham.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER BILL.

With an Amendment:—

SUMMARY JURISDICTION ACT (1879) AMENDMENT BILL.

MILTON CREEK CONSERVANCY BILL.

With Amendments:—

Amendment to Amendment to—

ST. JAMES'S AND PALL MALL ELECTRIC LIGHT BILL.

Consequential Amendment to Amendments to—

LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL.

Without Amendment.

Amendments to—

BURY CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

**BURY CORPORATION WATER BILL
[Lords].**

**CHURCH STRETTON WATER BILL
[Lords].**

ST. NEOTS WATER BILL [Lords].

Without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make better provision for the Elementary Education of Defective and Epileptic Children in England and Wales." [Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill [Lords].

**CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD
(IRELAND) BILL.**

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I have to ask leave to introduce a Bill to amend certain provisions of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, affecting the Congested Districts Board, and to make further provision for the expenses of that Board out of money provided by Parliament. The object of the Bill is to provide for an increase of the resources of the Congested Districts Board in accordance with the proposal which has already been made. It also includes some Amendments of the Act of 1896 affecting the Congested Districts Board which experience has shown to be desirable. The Bill is quite short, and we have every reason to believe that it will be found to be non-contentious. I beg to move :

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That leave be given to introduce the Bill.
(*Mr. G. W. Balfour.*)

MR. DAVITT: I have no intention of offering any opposition to the Bill. It is a non-contentious measure of a necessary and useful character, and will not call for any searching criticism. I believe the object to be to provide greater resources and more powers for the Congested Districts Board. That is a purpose which Irish Members on both sides of the House approve, and it will therefore be our duty to assist the right hon. Gentleman in passing it as soon as possible. My object in rising is not to give the Chief Secretary that assurance, but to call his attention to the many opportunities which now present themselves in the West of Ireland for

the buying of land through the Congested Districts Board, with the object of enlarging the holdings of small tenants. The right hon. Gentleman is aware, I am sure, that the transactions of that character which have been carried out by this Board have given general satisfaction. It is possible—indeed I have no doubt it is true—that the price given for the Dillon Estate may have induced many landlords to become willing to sell their estates wholly or in part. That price was too high ; but it is inevitable, in my judgment, that while landlordism rules the roost in Dublin Castle, and has a paramount influence on both branches of the Legislature, prices will be too high, whether the bargain is made between the landlord and tenant or between the Congested Districts Board and the landlord. I would nevertheless urge the right hon. Gentleman to pay attention to the popular feeling in the West of Ireland on this matter. He is probably aware that Lord Sligo and Mr. Donoghue, of Newport, have already expressed willingness to sell their estates in whole or in part. The tenants on these estates have been among those who have suffered most from poverty and distress in times past, and the right hon. Gentleman has therefore a unique opportunity to acquire this land on terms which would be satisfactory all round, and give these poor people a chance of improving their position in the future. I trust that the first use the right hon. Gentleman will make of this measure will be to carry out the wishes of the people in these parts.

Question put, and agreed to.

**CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD
(IRELAND).**

Bill to amend certain provisions of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, affecting the Congested Districts Board, and to make further provision for the expenses of that Board out of money provided by Parliament, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland.

**CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD
(IRELAND) BILL.**

"To amend certain provisions of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, affecting the Congested Districts Board, and to make further provision for the expenses of that Board out of money provided by

Parliament," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. (Bill 266.)

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.
(COMMITTEE.)

Order for Committee read.

***MR. SPEAKER:** Three instructions to the Committee on this Bill stand on the Paper. The first and third, standing in the names of the hon. Member for Mid Glamorgan and the hon. Member for South Molton, are both out of order and for the same reason. They do not propose to amplify or to extend in any way the operation of the Bill. They are in the nature of alternative proposals and of a nature which, if carried, would be destructive to the principle of the Bill. Such motions are not in order as instructions. The object of these instructions would have been appropriate as an amendment to the Second Reading, and for raising a Second Reading debate, but it has been ruled before in this House, and I rule now, in accordance with those rulings, that such motions are not in order as instructions. The second instruction on the Paper, standing in the name of the hon. Member for Merthyr, is out of order, because it proposes to apply the provisions of the Bill to a subject matter which is foreign to the purpose of the Bill. The object of the Bill is to give relief from rates upon the tithe rent-charge of beneficed clergy. To propose to apply it to schools and colleges is to propose to apply it to a certain class of lay impro priators who are altogether outside the object of the Bill. The instruction is, therefore, out of order, and the House will now go into Committee.

Bill considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1: —

***THE CHAIRMAN:** The first Amendment in the name of the hon. Member for Flint Burghs is out of order, because it proposes to postpone the consideration of the enacting clause until after the definition clause has been disposed of, which is contrary to the custom of Parliament. The second Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Carnarvon

Boroughs is in the wrong place; it should come after the word "benefice." The same remark applies to the third Amendment, and also to the Amendments in the names of the hon. Members for Merthyr Tydvil and Northampton. The Amendment in the name of the hon. Member for West Carmarthen should come in the definition clause. That in the name of the hon. Member for Hereford is in the wrong place. I call on the Member for Swansea District.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I shall not move, Sir.

***THE CHAIRMAN:** The Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for North Monmouth must be taken with another Amendment which appears lower down on the Paper, which applies a wholly different class of relief as an alternative to this clause. It would, therefore, be the proper course to move to strike out this clause and embody the proposal in a new clause. The Amendment in the name of the hon. Member for Flint Boroughs should also be raised in the definition clause. That in the name of the hon. Member for Mid Glamorgan is somewhat vague, and is better raised by a statement of the value of the particular rent-charge. There are several Amendments to that effect lower down. The Amendment of the hon. Member for South Molton would convert this Bill, which is one for the relief of the clergy, into a Church Discipline Bill. The next Amendment of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil should come in the definition clause, and the same remark applies to the Amendments of the hon. Members for Market Harborough and Pontefract. Then the Amendment in the name of the hon. Member for South Molton anticipates its proper position by a word or two. The first Amendment therefore in order is that of the hon. Member for Anglesey.

MR. LLOYD - GEORGE (Carnarvon, &c.): I beg to move the Amendment standing in the name of my hon. friend the Member for Anglesey. It is practically the same as that of which I had given notice at an earlier stage. It proposes to limit the relief granted under this Bill to cases where the value of the tithe rent-charge is £200 a year. I think the Committee would do well to accept this Amendment for two or three reasons which I now propose to give. The House

of Commons has decided that the clergy had a grievance ; it has decided that they are too highly rated, and, therefore, I cannot go behind that decision. But it has not decided the principle on which that relief should be given ; nor has it decided the extent of that relief. The only thing which is proposed by the Bill is that a certain remedy shall be applied to a grievance under which it is declared the clergy are suffering. It is admitted that our system of local taxation requires a good deal of readjustment and that the clergy are not the only ratepayers who suffer from the present system. It is admitted further that these grievances will have to be dealt with thoroughly and drastically in the course of the next few years. Therefore the only reason for passing this Bill is to extend temporary relief to classes of the community which are unduly pressed and reduced to a certain measure of distress by the present incidence of taxation. If that is the only reason for passing a crude measure of this kind, I think it would be very much better that the operation of the Act should be limited to those cases where the distress is undoubtedly real. The Committee will find upon reading the evidence given by clergymen themselves before the Royal Commission on Local Taxation that this is a suggestion which commended itself to the majority of the witnesses called. I find from a Memorandum prepared by the hon. Member for Tunbridge and appended to the Report, that he sent out a circular on this subject to 2,000 clergymen—at any rate, he received under 2,000 replies. I cannot understand upon what principle he selected 2,000 out of 13,000 clergymen affected by this Bill, but the response he received shows that only 1,600 regarded their cases as sufficiently distressing to require the attention of a Royal Commission.

MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge) : I sent out only 3,000 circul-

ars.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE : That makes my case still stronger. I think there are cases where the clergy may be suffering acute distress owing to the charge levied upon them, and those cases the House has decided to deal with. But I do ask the House to exercise the discretion which the hon. Member for Tunbridge himself has exercised. He is a friend of the

clergy, and is not likely to err on the side of excessive severity in his treatment of them. He evidently thinks that there are only about 3,000 cases that require the attention of the House of Commons. Why should this Committee, which is not very disposed to vote public money for the relief of the wants of the clergy, proceed to give it in 13,000 cases, when the hon. Member himself thinks that only 3,000 cases require attention ? He included in his Memorandum samples, as it were, of the letters which he received from the clergy. One of his correspondents, Mr. Lloyd, gives his opinion of what the remedy should be. He says that every man should have as a living wage at least £120 free of all deductions, but that taxes might be imposed on all he received over that amount. Now, my proposal is much more liberal than that. This clergyman, whose view is approved by the hon. Member for Tunbridge, simply pleads for exemption in respect of incomes of £120. I propose to improve upon that, and to extend exemption to £200, and in that I hope I shall have the support of the hon. Member for Tunbridge. Let us draw a line between really necessitous clergymen and those who are not in actual distress, owing to the present incidence of taxation. There were several clergymen who gave evidence before the Royal Commission, but, with one single exception, they all approved of the suggestion that the relief should be extended to the necessitous clergy. One clergyman examined was Mr. L. Ellis. He was asked if the grievance which he had been speaking of could not be met by means of some relief to the poorer clergy, and he answered in the affirmative. Mr. Manners-Sutton, another clerical witness, said the same thing. Mr. McPherson—who represented the distressed clergymen, and was there to plead their cause, having been chosen for that purpose, possibly, because he was a Scotchman, and therefore most likely to get money—was asked whether he would not be satisfied if relief were granted at the present moment to clergymen whose incomes were under £160. He said he was not prepared to answer that, but he added that the clergy naturally preferred that half their rates should be paid, whether their incomes were £1,000, £500, or £100. That need not be argued ; it goes without saying. But the witness was pressed to say whether the clergy would be satis-

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fied, for the moment, if this relief were granted to those in real need. He replied that, for the moment, they might be. Seeing that this is only a temporary measure of relief, and nobody suggests that it is a complete or final answer as far as the grievances of the clergy or anybody else are concerned, I think the Committee would do well to accept my Amendment. The whole system of local taxation is in a chaotic condition; it is full of inequalities and injustices, not merely to the clergy but also to laymen. The Royal Commission has recommended that there should be some redress granted all round. The whole point therefore is this: if you are going in for a temporary measure of relief, why not confine it to those clergy who are really necessitous, and then await the introduction of a measure which will rest the whole system of local taxation upon a basis that will be fair to everybody all round? The worst of a measure of this kind is that it means that the redressing of the grievances of one section or class of the community imposes an additional burden on others who are suffering quite as badly. I therefore propose to limit it as much as possible. Several witnesses were called before the Royal Commission to prove the grievances of different classes of the community, and their evidence has not been challenged. One case given was that of a quarry owner who, for sixteen years, had paid hundreds of pounds as rates, and all the while had got nothing out of his quarry. Then there was a metropolitan gas company which complained that it was rated four times as heavily as a competing company in an adjoining union. It is obvious that people are suffering from grievances which require to be redressed. Mr. Cassels was the only lawyer who gave evidence in favour of the parsons, and they made the most of him and quoted his opinions, although he challenged the views of all the judges of the land. What did he say? He gave the case of a shopkeeper who paid £50 rates, and was doing a good trade. Next door to him was another shopkeeper, who, although he paid the same amount of rates, was making practically no profit; yet there was no distinction drawn between the two; the man who was practically a bankrupt had to pay just as much as the man who was thriving. I do not see exactly how this illustration

was applicable to the parson, but I admit it shows grievances which ought to be redressed. What, however, I would like to point out is that, while you are relieving the parson, you are increasing the rate payable by the tradesman. Now, let me take the case of a clergyman who is receiving £500 a year from tithes. Upon that at present he has to pay £50 in rates. Under this Bill he will get off with paying £25. Compare his case with that of a shopkeeper who is rented at £150. As the rates average 6s. or 7s. in the pound, he also will have to pay £50. He possibly finds it quite as much as he can do to make both ends meet; yet, while the wealthy clergyman is to get his rates reduced by one half, the burden upon the trader is to be considerably increased in order to make up the £25 given to the parson. I think that that is exceedingly unfair, and I therefore submit that my proposal to limit the relief to clergymen whose incomes do not exceed £200 is in no way unjust. Such an income probably represents £150 net, and it is perhaps unfair to ask the recipient to pay £20 or £30 in rates out of that. You ought to relieve him, but surely there is no necessity to give relief to the man who is in receipt of £500. This is a Bill which can only be justified on the plea of urgency. There is no principle of rating laid down in it, and there is no real grievance redressed; it is simply a rough-and-ready method of meeting an emergency. The only possible case that can be made out for this Bill is the one of poverty on the part of the persons to whom the relief is extended. There may be cases of poverty made out in the case of clergymen whose gross tithe is under £200, but there really cannot be a case made out for giving £50 a year to a clergyman who is in receipt of £1,000 a year. On what possible grounds could a grant be made out of the pockets of the taxpayers in such a case? I appeal to the House of Commons, as a matter of fair play to the thousands of poor shopkeepers in the country who are suffering far more grievously, that their burdens should not be increased for the purpose of relieving the rates of gentlemen who are in receipt of large incomes. It is an exceedingly unfair proposition, and I hope the House of Commons will not accede to it. Rates are steadily on the increase, and if the House passes Bills of this character they will continue to

increase. There are classes in the community which deserve quite as much consideration from this House as the parsons and the landlords, and therefore I do urge that, if this Bill is to be passed at all, it should be passed in a form which will limit its operation to real cases of distress, and will not relieve the burdens of people who are very well able to bear them. I beg to move:

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'rent-charge,' to insert the words, 'under the value of £200 a year,' and."—(Mr. Lloyd-George.)

Question proposed, "That those words proposed be there inserted."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): The Amendment which the hon. Gentleman has just moved, as is natural with regard to the view those who act with him have lately expressed, is one which is directed against the whole principle of the Bill. The hon. Member has endeavoured, and has done so with great ability, to maintain that the object of the measure is to relieve distress. Hon. Members are perfectly entitled to hold their own views as to what the object is, but the same may be said of those who are responsible for the measure. The object ascribed by the hon. Member has nothing to do with the principle underlying this proposal. It is true that a large section of the clergy have carried on their work under very great difficulties and on very limited incomes, but there are, as the hon. Member admitted, many other people who do that. But people are not rated, except in the case of the clergy who are owners of tithe rent-charge, on their income. They are rated on their houses, and the proposal has never been made that a man should be rated more because he was a rich man, although he lives in a moderate house. It is because the system under which the owners of tithe are rated is, in the opinion of the Government, unjust and requires amendment that the Bill has been introduced. If the Government were willing to adopt the view of the hon. Member, his proposal would not meet the difficulty, nor would it do anything to meet the cases where there is real distress. The Amendment which the hon. Member has moved on behalf of his colleague is not exactly the

same as his own Amendment earlier on the Paper, which is clearer, because it defines what the value should be. This Amendment leaves it a matter of doubt whether the value is to be rateable value or commuted value. If we abandoned the principle of the Bill, which we have declared to be a reform of local taxation, and accepted the view of the hon. Member, this Amendment would not carry out his object, and limit the relief to the poor clergy. The hon. Member entirely ignores the fact that the limited incomes of incumbents are made up from various sources. The effect of the Amendment would be most inequitable if the desire is to give relief to those of the clergy who are less well off. Take the case of an incumbent with an income from tithe on its commuted value of £210 a year. This clergyman would be outside the limit of relief proposed in the Amendment. Another incumbent near might have an income of £150 a year arising from tithe, but this income might be added to from other sources, such as pew rents, etc., bringing the total up to between £300 and £400. Under the hon. Member's proposal the incumbent with the larger income would receive relief, while the incumbent with £210 a year would be excluded. Therefore the poorer clergyman would get no relief. The Government cannot accept the Amendment, because it would be unjust in its working. It would at the same time be opposed to the object we have in view—namely, by this measure to initiate a system, which we hope will be permanently adopted, no doubt, in a modified form, with regard to the local taxation of this country.

SIR WILLIAM HARROD (Monmouthshire, W.): The right hon. Gentleman has declared that the principle of this Bill has nothing to do with the poverty of the clergy. I hope that that will be borne in mind. You may depend upon it that it is only a sentiment of sympathy with that class of the clergy who are really impoverished and the feelings which have been aroused in their favour which form the slightest justification for this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman talks of the principle of the Bill. Yes, but what we want to know is what is the justification for the Bill? The right hon. Gentleman has made some extraordinary statements on this subject

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of the clergy being the only people who are rated on their incomes. I know that you have given back something to the landlords, but I thought that the landlords were rated on the income derived from land. This is the situation of the tithe-owner; he is precisely in the same situation as to the manner in which he derives his income. It is not a professional income at all. You will say no doubt it is a justification for your Bill that you have already mulcted the general public for the benefit of one class, and that that is a justification for robbing the general public in favour of another class. That is what is called the principle of the Bill. Let us examine that principle. You committed the injustice at that time under the pretence of poverty. Nobody will pretend that the Agricultural Rates Bill was not passed in consequence of the fall in the price of produce. Now you are going to do the same thing for another class, and what will happen? I will tell the right hon. Gentleman. In every rural parish of this country there will be two men who are the richest men in that parish, and they and they alone will receive from the pockets of the public this dole. I have had some experience of country parishes, and I know that those two persons are the squire and the parson, and those are the two men who will only pay half their rates. That is the principle of the Bill. Now we understand exactly what it is. It is founded upon the proposition that the wealthiest men are those who are to have the most grant out of public money. It is said this is the income of the clergy. I absolutely contest that. The tithe has never been, taken as a whole, the income of the clergy, either before the Reformation or since, either before the Commutation Act of 1836 or since. You might just as well say that of a man who has £500 a year primarily and nominally paid to him, but which is subject to a mortgage or rent-charge, or some other reduction of that kind. Therefore, it is perfectly untrue to take the tithe rent-charge and say that is the income of the clergy. It never was at any time. Tithe rent-charge has been always charged with the rates, and with the support of the poor under the Act of Elizabeth. Therefore the principle of your Bill is founded on an entire fallacy. A clergyman with an income of £500 a year never was entitled to £500 except subject to those deductions. The case is

very much as if a landowner went before the overseers and said, "The rateable value of my property is so much, but my property is mortgaged for three-fourths of its value, and therefore I ought only to pay one-fourth of the rate." That is the principle of your Bill. We hope to be able in this Committee—so long as we are permitted to do so—to make the country understand that this is the principle, and I think the more it is examined the more it will be found to be utterly unjustifiable, and to be one of the worst kinds of class legislation, of legislation which is taking from those who have not in order to give to those who have. Because, let it be remembered, the poorer clergy do not, generally speaking, derive benefit from tithe. Therefore the very scope of the Bill, in dealing with tithe only as regards the clergy, is dealing not universally, but generally, with the wealthier class of the clergy. That is a proposition of which anybody who has studied the question will be perfectly well aware. I saw in the paper to-day—I do not know whether it is correct—that, on dividing the sum appropriated to incumbencies in England, the average to each incumbent upon a division would be £455 a year. Of course that means that a great many livings must be very much above that figure. Do you really believe you can justify to the people of this country, either the people who inhabit the large towns or those in the country parishes, this picking out a particular class of the community and giving to them a relief to which on any sound interpretation of law they are not and never were entitled? This proposal is unjustifiable, because it relieves the clergy of a payment to which they were subject, and which they have always taken over with their livings, and the clergy had no right to take those livings except under such conditions. I support the Amendment of my hon. friend because at least it has something to justify it, and that is the position of the poorer clergy. That is the only sort of justification to be offered for a measure of this character. As for taking the money of the people of the towns for the purpose of subsidising the larger incomes of the wealthier clergy, that is a thing which cannot be justified for a moment. We are told, indeed, that Parliament has nothing to do with the Church. Convocation has told us that all we have to do with the Church is to

rob other people in order to pay her. That is said to be the province of Parliament in relation to the Church, but I think the Church should get this miserable pittance from other sources. This money is not to be distributed to the poor and those who want it, but is to be thrown broadcast for people to scramble for without any regard to whether it is going to do good in a particular place where it is to be given, or to a particular person on whom it is to be bestowed. That, I venture to say, is repugnant to the common sense and the sentiment of common justice of the country, and I shall certainly support the Amendment of my hon. friend.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I desire to move an Amendment. We are told that this question has nothing to do with charity, but that it is a case of justice; that it is not a question of dealing with the poverty of the clergy, but it is simply to remove an injustice in the rating of the tithe rent-charge. What I should like to know is, if it is an injustice to rate the tithe rent-charge belonging to the clergy, why is it not an equal injustice to rate the tithe rent-charge which goes to colleges and schools? There can be no question about it that the rating of the tithe rent-charge payable to colleges and schools has reduced the amount of money which would otherwise have been devoted to scholarships and fellowships. We are told that this is an act of justice and not an act of charity, but I want to know why the tithe rent-charge of schools and colleges is not also dealt with at the same time? It has been stated that personal incomes are not rated, but I know from personal experience that in Monmouthshire colliery owners have had to pay 8d. a ton as a charge upon the coal even when they have been producing coal at a loss. I beg to move:

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"After the word 'the' to insert the word 'commuted'"—(Mr. D. A. Thomas.)

Question, "That the word 'commuted' be there inserted," put and agreed to.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture has told us that this would affect the

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principle of the Bill. I do not see that it can affect the principle of his measure if that principle be to give relief to those who need it most. My hon. friend below me has said that if this is the principle surely it should be made permanent, and not established only for two years. If it is intended as a reform of local taxation, why not introduce a Bill affecting all tithe-payers and not one particular class? If this be an injustice it has been going on for sixty-three years, and no attempt has ever been made to remedy it. This Amendment asks that relief be given to those who need it. I have in my hand a list of livings in which the tithes are considerably more than £250. There is a living in a parish in Dorset with a commuted tithe charge of £1,500, and you are going to relieve a clergyman with that income of half his rates. Can it be seriously urged that any reform of local taxation—which, I presume, means placing taxation on the shoulders of those best able to bear it—would relieve a man with an income of £1,500 a year? Then there is the living of Hatfield, a very historic parish, which contains the residence of the Prime Minister, which has a commuted tithe rent of £1,876, and the rector is to have half his rates paid. Can it be said that these gentlemen are more unduly burdened than other ratepayers? The proposals of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire operated in favour of the poor, but you are giving relief to gentlemen with incomes of over £1,000. It would have been thought that hon. Gentlemen opposite, as representing the Church, would have limited this relief to the necessitous clergymen. Why, one would imagine that the Treasury had a kind of gold mine, from which they were scattering gold all over the country. The hon. Gentleman the Member for the Woodbridge Division said that there were seventy livings in the Diocese of Norwich with incomes less than £100 a year. Very well. There you have a place where you could relieve necessitous clergymen; but surely it cannot be said that you are relieving necessitous clergymen when you are relieving gentlemen with incomes of over £1,000 a year. I would ask the right hon. Gentleman this question: Does he think that in rural parishes it will be for the benefit of the Church that ratepayers

should be compelled to pay half the rates of clergymen with incomes ten times greater than their own? Nothing will arouse greater hostility in the rural parishes, and the clergy know it. Why did not the Lower House of Convocation thank you for your Bill the other day? Why, they hardly accepted it, and the previous question was only negatived by one vote. Nothing is more calculated to make the ratepayers smart under a sense of injustice and to raise hostility to the Church. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will see the force of this Amendment. This is only a temporary measure; it is not to be put on the Statute Book as a permanent measure of local taxation. Let it therefore relieve those necessitous clergymen, and not ask the taxpayers to pay for clergymen with large incomes.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: I hardly think that the right hon. Gentleman grasps the point that lies at the base of my hon. friend's Amendment or the observations of my right hon. friend. The question we want an answer to is this: Why are you drawing a distinction between one class of tithe rent owners and another class? We could understand it if in response to the numerous representations which clergymen have made to you since you came into office you said: "Yes, you are valuable supporters of the present Government, and we will do what we can to help you in your distressed condition." We could understand then why on the basis of this interim Report you are asking that some relief should be given to necessitous clergymen. But that is not what you have done. You have brought in a Bill based, not on the particular circumstances of any class of tithe receivers, not on the necessities of the clergy, but on some injustice discovered with regard to the incidence of local taxation. I challenge the right hon. Gentleman to say why, if it is just to pay half the rates of a tithe rent-charge owner who happens to be a beneficed clergyman, it is not also just to pay half the rates of the descendants of the men who bought tithes in the reign of Henry VIII.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman is now discussing an Amendment of his own which appears later on the Paper.

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MR. BRYNMOR JONES: I was only replying to the observations of the right hon. Gentleman, and I have no desire to raise the general question. When the right hon. Gentleman is challenged on the pecuniary limit, he replies that it is a matter of justice, and that it does not matter whether the clergy are paid a large sum or not. If that is the principle, why do you not relieve the colleges and private persons who are owners of tithe rent? The right hon. Gentleman says that in the case of colleges the tithe rent is income; but where in law can he find a distinction between a tithe rent charge paid to a clergyman and a tithe rent-charge paid to a college? Why is it income in one case and not in the other? I deny that it is income—it has always been treated as property. I submit that the right hon. Gentleman in his answer has not met the point. He has not shown us any real logical ground for distinguishing between the clergy and other tithe rent-charge owners. If he says that he is not animated with a desire to assist the clergy, I will only reply that that is contrary to many of the declarations made by Ministers.

*MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth): I think it is perfectly patent, whatever may be the reasons adduced by Ministers of the Crown in this House, that this Bill can only in justice be based on the theory which the country entertains, namely, that the necessitous clergy alone should receive assistance from it. That appears to me to be the only defensible view to take in favour of this measure. It is somewhat significant that in the course of this Debate not a single Tory Member has spoken in defence of this extraordinary measure, and that is not surprising, considering that many hon. Members opposite represent great democratic constituencies such as Manchester, Leicester, Sheffield, and other great towns. The Bill has been repudiated by the Ministerial candidates at a recent election. A year or two ago we had a similar measure for assisting the clergy of this country by granting large subsidies to their sectarian schools. A very respected and worthy member of this House representing an East End constituency then told us that it was his habit whenever a clergyman approached his platform to gently push him off. After this Bill passes there will

be many hon. Members who will desire to push the parson off their platforms. The object of the Amendment of my hon. friend is to provide that this relief or just payment, which ever it may be called, should be granted to the poorer clergy, and that the richer clergy should not receive this benefaction out of the public purse, which benefactions, I may remind the Committee, will be taken out of the important and useful grants which the county councils have been in the habit of applying for various purposes in counties and county boroughs. We must not forget, as indeed has been admitted by the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Agriculture, that the clergy have various other sources of income which supplement what undoubtedly in many cases are very small stipends. I observe that in the ancient times to which the interim Report of the Commission refers the oblations were subject to rates. But although offertories, pew rents, and the benefactions of generous parishioners which come now and then in the way of the clergy are sources of income, none of these are subject to local taxation. There is a church down on the coast of Kent, well known to many Members of the House—the church of the Parish of Lydd, connected with the great church of Canterbury. The revenue of the clergyman of that church includes the commuted tithe £1,381. But that is not the only source of income of the incumbent. He receives a very large grant from the Government in respect of the troops who are marched to his church from the neighbouring camp of Lydd. Then, although the tithe is commuted at £1,381, he is allowed an enormous percentage of deductions before arriving at the assessable value, which amounts to only £767, or little more than half of the total of the commuted value of the tithe rent-charge. On what principle of justice are the farmers—who are very heavily taxed for the tithe in the adjoining Romney Marshes—to contribute their proportion of the additional £50 a year presented out of this fund to the parish clergyman of Lydd? In the next parish of Midley there is an old ruin. No church exists at all. There is merely the gable end of an old church,

Mr. Perks.

which has been in ruins for three hundred or four hundred years. The tithes of that parish are now handed over to the rich neighbouring parish of Folkestone. It is a ludicrous conception of this Bill when such instances as I have quoted are adduced to describe it as doing justice. Now, I have had letters from several clergymen in the division of Lincolnshire which I represent asking me to support this Bill. I have not the honour to be supported by many clergymen. In my division of Lincolnshire, out of seventy-six clergymen seventy-two are my political opponents. Of the remaining four three have written to me to ask me to vote for this Bill, but two of them have discovered since they wrote me that they wrote me under a complete hallucination, and that the Bill will give them no relief at all. One finds that his benefit, which is attached to one of the Cambridge colleges, does not come under the Bill. If the Bill had been based on the principle of justice surely a college living would have been given some relief. Take another case. There is a rich living in my division where the unfortunate clergyman did a very foolish thing—he bought the living. I have done my very best for some years past to help him, as a benevolent friend of the clergy, over the various quagmires into which he every now and again gets plunged. His living is what is called sequestered, and the Bishop of the Diocese has put in some legal functionary who seems to be kept a sort of an appendage to the Bishop; and that man is now in charge of the spiritual interests of this parish. The poor rector or vicar is a waif and stray, wandering from one end of the country to the other trying to earn a precarious living as *locum tenens*. When the Bill was introduced he thought he was in sight of the Land of Goshen, and pictured himself back again in his happy living; but now I am told the Bill does not apply to livings which have been sequestered, and where the person in charge of the spiritual interests of the parish happens to be in the position of a receiver.

MR. LONG: It will apply just the same.

*MR. PERKS: Well, he has taken legal advice.

MR. LONG: That is another thing.

***MR. PERKS:** The advice is not mine. I am not learned in ecclesiastical law. But he has taken the advice of some learned chancellor or legal functionary, and he is told that he will still have to wander like a spiritual Arab over the length and breadth of the country and that he would get no relief. There is only one other clergyman who seems to be a beneficiary under the Act who has appealed to me to support it. His income is £600 a year. His ancestors bought the living, which has been gently handed down from father to son, and I suppose, unless the law is altered, that will go on for ever. His income, as I have said, is £600 a year. He is, I believe, an eloquent preacher, but his congregation is small. That is no fault of his, because the bulk of his parishioners are dissenters. His collections are also small, averaging less than 2s., and his congregation is less than twelve. On what grounds of justice—and this Bill is put before us purely as an act of justice—is this gentleman to get a benefaction of £30 a year? I do not think we are asking anything at all unreasonable in suggesting that this measure should be confined to the poor and necessitous clergy whose commuted tithe rent-charge stands at the figure of £200 a year. I beg to support the Amendment of my hon. friend.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton): I wish to challenge a statement made by the right hon. Gentleman opposite and by several other hon. Members at a previous stage of this Bill, that the tithes when originally given were given partly to the support of the poor. The right hon. Gentleman used that as an argument for voting against the Second Reading.

***THE CHAIRMAN:** That has nothing whatever to do with the Amendment before the Committee.

MR. WARNER (Stafford, Lichfield): There has been a very extraordinary defence made by the Government in their opposition to this Amendment. I am not at all surprised that the Minister for Agriculture is the only person on that side of the House who speaks in favour of

the Government proposal and against the Amendment, because votes are very seldom looked at by constituents, but speeches are; and speeches in the House of Commons in favour of this Bill would probably be exceedingly unpopular. Therefore it is not surprising that hon. Gentlemen are maintaining a discreet silence on the subject.

AN HON. MEMBER: The hon. Member should not judge other people's constituencies from his own.

MR. WARNER: By what other standard should I judge them than by that of my own constituency, especially when mine contains rather more than the average number of clergy; and, therefore, I am still more surprised at the interruption. What I want to know is the extraordinary principle that the Bill is run on. It is called justice; but the only case that the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Agriculture gave was where a benefice got £210 a year from the tithe rent-charge, and under this Amendment it would not be excluded, but if the next living had only £150 a year from tithe rent-charge and £200 a year from other sources of income it would be excluded. That is an exceedingly good reason for saying that where the whole income of the living exceeds £200 it should not be exempted, and if the right hon. Gentleman will accept that proposition surely there is ability sufficient on either side of the House to draft Amendments to meet the difficulty; that is to say, that where the whole income of the benefice, including the value of the house, does not exceed £200, the clergy should get advantage of the provisions of the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman says that we ought not to curtail the extent of the Bill to prevent the relief of the richer clergy, because that would be very unpopular. Well, I will take, not his own county, or even the county of Stafford with which I am connected, or the City of Bristol, but the poorer places in those agricultural districts the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Agriculture is so anxious to relieve and where he did so much for the landlords. Take Somersetshire, where the rates amount to £14,000, or the more grievous case, the county of Essex, where the land is going out of cultivation because of the difficulty of

paying the high rates. Surely that is a county where something should be done to alleviate the hardships of the poorer clergy. But if you leave the Bill as it stands, and do not cut off the relief to the richer parsons, you increase the rates in Essex to the extent of £1,500 a year—and that in a county that is going out of cultivation because the rates and taxes are so high upon it at present! That is a very serious case and one which agricultural Members in this House ought to think seriously about, before they vote for this haphazard addition to the revenues of the Church of England and for putting an additional burden on the ratepayers of the country. It may be said, "You ought not to want to reduce it, because it is already such a small sum—only £86,000 a year." Yes, but that is a very large sum. I will put it in this way. You are adding at one swoop, out of the unwilling ratepayers' pockets, 30 per cent. to the endowments of the Church during the last 200 years. That is too much to give to rich persons. I should not object if this Bill had proper safeguards such as is proposed by this Amendment, in order to ensure that all the money that you give goes to the needy parsons who have a difficulty to make both ends meet—either to the poor men who are working in our great towns for a miserable pittance of less than £100 a year, or to those engaged in the country districts who have not enough to keep their houses in a proper state of repair—but you give this money to those clergymen whose living is worth £1,000, and in some cases £2,000, who are perfectly able to take care of themselves. I hope to hear somebody on the opposite side of the House give some reason why you should tax the poor to subsidise the rich clergy of this country. I trust that later on, if not to-day, this Bill will be so curtailed as to avoid this great injustice.

*SIR H. H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I am not going to discuss the general question of the Bill on this Amendment. The Amendment itself is sufficiently serious, not only for the matter which it contains, but also for the declaration which the Minister in charge of the Bill has made, and which has been already powerfully emphasised by my right hon. friend the Member for West Monmouth. The Minister in charge of the Bill, said that it was entirely

Mr. Warner.

a Bill to be looked at in the light of justice, totally irrespective of the means or the position of the persons receiving the grant. (Ministerial cheers.) That sentiment was cheered—that it is the abstract right of the tithe-owner who pays rates to have half his rates paid to him because it is professional income. How does the right hon. Gentleman apply that principle?

MR. LONG : I stated that no case had been brought forward by the Opposition to meet the challenge we had given—namely, that a clergyman is rated upon his income at a higher rate than anybody else's income. I did not use the words "professional income."

*SIR H. H. FOWLER : I will take the word "professional" out, but I do not see exactly the force of the right hon. Gentleman's argument, if it does not apply in the sense in which I apply it—viz., that the tithe-owner is to be relieved from the payment of his rates under the circumstances stated. The relief is to be given in both cases in the same way. I will put it in a concrete form. I will take Amersham, in Buckinghamshire. The net amount of the tithe in Amersham is £1,150 a year. The rates are paid by the landlord, and they were £286, and there was awarded to the clerical tithe-owner at Amersham a rent-charge of £1,500 a year, which covers both his tithe and rates. If we go to Wiltshire, there is a very strong case in the parish of Melksham. There the tithe is £976 4s. 4d., the rates were £178 2s. 8d., and the rent-charge is £1,278 8s. 10d. If I go to Mold in Flintshire, I find the tithe is £1,314, the rates £270, and the tithe rent-charge £1,645. I want the right hon. Gentleman to tell the Committee where is the justice of taking public money, raised by the general taxation of the country, in order to make a present to gentlemen receiving incomes of between £1,000 and £2,000 a year. It is idle to say that the case for the Bill is not based upon the poor clergy. Were it not so the Bill would be laughed out of the House of Commons. I think the poor clergy have a very strong case. I said so on the Second Reading, but I do not think this is the proper way to meet it; on the contrary, I think it is a radically wrong way. Is it right

to give this relief to a man who is receiving an income—you may call it a professional income or an income from property—of £1,600, £1,700, or £1,800 a year, and say to the urban taxpayers or the rural taxpayers that that man has a right to have one-half of his rates paid out of the general taxation? I shall support this Amendment on the principle that if this Bill is passed it should be confined to the poor clergy, to the people who are necessitous, and that the money proposed to be voted should not be lavished as it was under the Agricultural Rating Act, when you gave the owners of very valuable land in large towns the same contribution that you gave to the poor land-owners like those of Essex. Hon. Gentlemen are the best judges of their own business, and they know whether this is a happy precedent to follow now. At all events, we know now that what we are going to divide upon is not the merits of the Bill, or whether this is a right mode of giving relief—that was decided on the Second Reading issue—but we are going to divide upon the question, Is it right or wrong that this relief should be confined to those who deserve it, and not given to those who are far better able to do without it than the vast masses of the people?

MR. LONG: The right hon. Gentleman has asked a question, and, after the manner of the Opposition, he has selected for himself and for them what the issue before the Committee shall be; and naturally he has placed the question in a light which will be most agreeable to his friends. But I again repeat what I said before, that as it is the right hon. Gentleman's undoubted right to give his own description of the issue before the Committee, so it is undoubtedly the right of those of us who are responsible for the Bill to put the issue before the Committee as it appears to us. Certainly it is not as described by the right hon. Gentleman. He quoted certain cases from a Parliamentary Return in which additions were made. That has nothing to do, as far as we are able to see, with the line which is to be taken in regard to the payment of rates. The additions in respect of rates affect only the sum which has been already agreed upon by private arrangement between the tithe-owner and the tithepayer previous to the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. The effect of that

Act is to rectify in some cases, to vary in others, but to make permanent in all, the arrangements arrived at previously between the two parties—the tithe-owner and the tithe-payer. The difference in the amounts referred to by the right hon. Gentleman is accounted for by the additions made in those cases where the bargain is regarded by the Commissioners as a bad one to the tithe-owner, or by deductions made in the other cases where the bargain is thought to be unfair to the tithe-payer. Whether the rates are high or low in no way affects the question now under consideration, but solely the property of the tithe-owner as fixed before the passing of the Act and subsequently confirmed by the Act. The right hon. Gentleman said that the cases he referred to could be quoted to any extent; it is true, because these arrangements were made previous to 1836 in 50 per cent. of the cases. The question is asked, Are you going to give this relief to a man whose income is from £1,000 to £1,200 a year, the same as to a man whose income is between £200 and £300 a year? My reply is "Yes." The right hon. Gentleman asks the reason why, and, although I stated it before, I have no objection to state it again. The position of the owner of tithe rent-charge to whom this Bill applies as a ratepayer is one, we contend, of injustice, comparing him with other ratepayers in the same position in regard to the property on which they are rated. In the case of the majority of ordinary ratepayers their rates amount to 1 or 2 per cent. of their incomes, whereas the owner of tithe rent-charge pays at the rate of 20 per cent. That is the reason why we say that, whether the income is great or small, it is just that Parliament, if we are dealing with a reform of this question, should deal with it as a whole, and not limit it in the manner indicated by the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman.

MR. ASQUITH (Fife, E.): If the argument the right hon. Gentleman has just used is the argument on which the Government are going to defend their proposals, I should like to put to him once more a question which has already been asked more than once—namely, why, if this is going to be a complete and logical measure, do you not give the same relief to a person who has exactly the same claim to it, the lay impropriator of tithes?

He derives his income from precisely the same source as the beneficed clergy, and he is rated in respect of his income upon the same excessive scale as the clergyman is. If, therefore, that is ground for granting relief in the one case, it is obviously ground for granting relief in the other. It is totally impossible to represent this measure as anything but an illogical and half-hearted scheme. There is one other question I should like to put to the right hon. Gentleman in reference to the argument of my right hon. friend the Member for Wolverhampton. I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman what he conceives to be the income of the tithe-owner the day before the commutation. The income received by the parson is the amount of the composition, and not one halfpenny more, and therefore it is a complete fallacy to treat the sum awarded at the time of the commutation, which included the gross payments in respect of rates in addition to the amount of the net income he has been receiving before, as though that were or ever has been the income of the parson.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): The right hon. Gentleman has asked the Committee to confine their attention to the principle of this Bill, and I think we should better understand the principle if we keep out of mind altogether the fact that it has anything to do with the clergy. What is the principle of rating? Rating has simply to do with property; it has nothing to do with the incomes of the people who pay the rates. The principle of rating has nothing in the world to do with any argument about income. That is quite beside the mark. The arrangement is that a certain proportion of the cost of bearing the public burdens should be raised from land, and that that proportion should be the first charge on the land—as upon all other property. So that in the case of the tithe rent payer, if he paid £100 a year for rates and received £300 for tithe, he never received £400 a year, his income was £300, the £100 being simply taken as first charge for the public burden. The rate has purely to do with how much is it fair to raise from certain classes of property to meet the public burden. There is a very important principle involved in the Bill—one which will deeply stir the mind of the public when once it is realised—and that is, whether or not you should shift a certain portion of the

burden which has hitherto been borne by land from land to other kinds of property or taxation. It is not a question of whether we should relieve the clergy, or whether they pay in rates a larger or a smaller proportion of their income than others. The question is: Shall land pay such a proportion towards the public burdens? You are touching one of the most important principles of English law, the disturbance of which will shatter the Party opposite. Recent elections prove this. Nothing has stirred the heart of the people more than the feeling that the land does not now bear its fair share of the burden. In the face of these facts, is it not trivial to base this measure upon a principle? Would it not be politic to base it upon temporary expediency? The whole Bill has that aspect. In the first place, it is for three years only; secondly, it affects half the rates. Why not the whole or three-fourths?

*THE CHA IRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is talking at random upon nearly all the subsequent Amendments. I must ask him to confine himself to the Amendment before the Committee.

MR. HARWOOD: I beg your pardon, Sir. I was going to appeal to the Government to regard this as a matter of temporary expediency, and not to take the dangerous step of basing it upon any principle. If that suggestion is adopted this Amendment is an admirable one. Let the Government say that they propose this as a measure of temporary relief for a distressed portion of the community, and appeal to the sympathy of the country. That is the ground upon which to base it, and in all good nature I make that suggestion to the right hon. Gentleman, believing that it will most commend this Bill to the country.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Stockport): This Bill, we are told, has nothing to do with the necessities of the clergy, and is not formulated in this House to remedy the results of the hardship which the clergy are suffering in consequence of the reduction in the value of tithe. The argument is that this is a measure of justice to a very heavily-rated section of the community—a section of the community who, we are told, pay rates upon the whole of their income. I deny that from

Mr. Asquith.

the outset. The clergy pay rates upon that part of their income derivable from rateable property, just as everybody else pays on their income from a similar class of property. The right hon. Gentleman said he was fully in agreement with the opinion of the House that this was only piecemeal legislation, and that ultimately the whole question of the burden on rateable and non-rateable property would have to be dealt with. Therefore even at its best, this is only a graduated piece of justice, and it is put forward merely as a modicum of justice until the whole question can be dealt with. The point I want to make is that money is required for giving this measure of justice to the clergy. Where does that money come from? It comes from the Local Taxation Account, which is distributable amongst—

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is anticipating future Amendments. I must ask him to confine himself to the one before the Committee.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY: I was leading up to my argument, which is that as this is a measure of justice to the clergy it is *pro tanto* a measure of injustice to those rating authorities who have to find the money. I think that probably upon that line I may be permitted to argue.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think that that is the question before the Committee. The question before the Committee is whether those who receive a larger tithe rent-charge than £200 are to be struck out of the Bill; whether the Bill is to be made applicable only to those who are in receipt of tithe rent-charge below £200.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY: Of course I submit to your ruling, but when you have heard my argument I think you will change your mind. If this be a measure of justice to the clergy, it is a measure of injustice to the towns. I would ask the House to limit that injustice by reducing in accordance with the terms of this Amendment the justice to the clergy. That is the argument I desire to develop, and I think it is coherent and, taken as a whole, in order. You cannot pick this money up on any Tom Tiddler's ground; you are going to obtain it from

a fund which is distributable amongst all the rating authorities of the country. Out of the total number of assessments in the country the towns have the largest proportion, and therefore in proportion to the justice you are dealing out to the clergy you are dealing out injustice to the towns, because you are taking money from the towns and urban districts and handing it over to the clergy. That being so, is it not desirable that the injustice should be limited to the smallest possible amount which will enable you to relieve the most necessitous cases? This is a fine which the towns and rating authorities of the country will have to pay in order to augment the incomes of the clergy, and I suggest that the fine should be reduced to the smallest possible amount in order to keep the injustice within the closest possible limits.

MR. LOGAN (Leicester, Harborough): The right hon. Gentleman says that he does not base his case for the Bill on the poverty of the clergy, but I do base my opposition to the clause upon the ground that I represent a large number of very poor people who cannot afford to pay their contribution towards the half of the rates of which the clergy are to be relieved. I heartily support the Amendment before the Committee, because under it the gross injustice to the poor of the country will be minimised to a certain extent. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill talks about injustice. Is he prepared to go down into the country and argue before men who receive 12s. a week that, as an act of justice, they should contribute out of their miserable wage a portion of the rates of the clergy? The clergy are in many cases poor, but the great majority are in affluent circumstances compared to the men upon whom they live, and who will have to contribute to the livelihood of these gentlemen out of their scanty earnings. I am astonished that the right hon. Gentleman who has charge of this Bill should have the nerve to introduce it—a Bill which, looking at it in its native hideousness, will compel a man in Devonshire earning 10s. a week to contribute to the living of a man with £10,000 a year.

AN HON. MEMBER: How much will he contribute?

MR. LOGAN: I am asked how much will he contribute. It need be very little, indeed, out of a weekly wage of 9s. or 10s. The hon. Gentleman has endeavoured to prove that the tithe rent is an increment, but as we understand it is nothing of the kind. I desire to support the Amendment because this Bill without it will do a very great injustice to the other classes of the community. I object to the clergy being assisted out of the pockets of those who are worse off than themselves. This Bill, whether the Amendment is accepted or not, is another bribe in the face of a General Election, and as such I have great pleasure in endeavouring to reduce the amount of it.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I think it was unfortunate that an hon. Gentleman on the other side of the House was obliged to bring his speech to so premature a conclusion; because he was the only one on that side who rose to break the conspiracy of silence which we have to meet, and from which the country will draw its own conclusions. The President of the Board of Agriculture is opposed to the Amendment on the ground that this is an act of simple justice. That we deny, but assuming that view is sound, it is not a measure of justice to the whole, but only to a section of the tithe-payers, and it is because the Amendment now before the Committee to some extent limits the injustice of this measure that I give it my support.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorset, W.): If the hon. Member for the Harborough Division knew anything about cottage property he would know that the man getting 9s. a week pays no rates; they are paid for him under composition by the landlord, and the amount is so small that it is never taken into consideration in fixing the rent. With regard to the suggested injustice of this Bill, I might give one illustration of a rector I know, who, ever since he has had the living, has paid £25 a year more rates than a person occupying a similar house. In twenty years he has paid £500 more in rates than his neighbours, and now because we suggest that the ratepayers should take on themselves a burden which they ought to have

taken long ago we are told it is unjust to the ratepayers. There is no injustice at all.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I was much surprised to hear the hon. Gentleman the Member for West Dorset say that a man who occupied a house at £9 a year paid no rates.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS: I said nothing of the kind. I said a man earning 9s. a week paid no appreciable share of the rates.

MR. LABOUCHERE: No, because the landlord pays it, and he gets it out of the rent, and what is more, the happy landlord gets 30s. off for paying it. Then he tells us a parson in his neighbourhood pays more rates than his neighbour, but what does the neighbour get his money out of? If he got it out of the tithes I could quite understand he would be hardly treated if the parson did pay more. But the parson gets his income out of the tithes, and he, like every tithe-owner, robs the community of the amount he gets out of the tithes. I am perfectly impartial on this Amendment, because I would take away the tithes under £200 a year, and I would take them away over £200 a year. I would take them away from the lay and from the clerical improvisor. It seems to me that this Amendment is not only of an impossible character, but it is one which will not hold water. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture has immortalised himself by muzzling dogs, and now he seems to me to be trying to muzzle the supporters of the Government as if they were mere dogs. I do trust that this, and I implore hon. Gentlemen opposite not to sit stolidly silent but to find their tongues and say that they will not be treated in this way by the right hon. Gentleman. (Cries of "Question.") Why don't hon. Gentlemen opposite get up and make speeches upon this subject instead of crying out "Question, question"? There the hon. Member opposite sits lol ling in that way——

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order. "Lolling" is not an appropriate expression to use, and I hope the hon. Member will withdraw it.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Then I will withdraw it at once, and I may say that the hon. Member sits in a most graceful attitude. The question has been asked if there is any person who pays rates upon his income; but do not colliery owners and quarry owners pay rates upon their income? That is a matter of hard fact, and very often they pay on a good deal more than their income. Now what is the Amendment? It is that the clergy receiving above £200 a year should not benefit by this dole which is being given. I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman has read through the evidence given before the Committee, but if he has done so he will have seen that a large number of clergy came forward as witnesses, and they said that it was only fair that this dole should be limited to those who had salaries below £150 per annum. A gentleman named Davis—a most estimable person—said he thought that £150 was about the correct figure, and I agree with him entirely. A pastor is a man—or ought to be—who does not preach the Gospel for his own benefit, but for the benefit of other people, and provided that he gets a small and reasonable income he ought to be satisfied. What did Oliver Goldsmith say in his "Deserted Village"? He said: "Passing rich on £40 a year." Surely a clergyman to-day is "passing rich" on £200 a year, and I do not want us to give him any help. Comparing the number of clergy receiving £200 a year, and the number of those receiving above that amount, if you gave nothing to those above £200 a year, you would be able to allow to the remainder not only half the rate on the tithe but the whole of it. If we are to treat this matter from the point of view of the State giving to these clergy a fair and adequate income, we certainly ought to do it in regard to the poor and not in regard to the rich. There are a number of livings with incomes of over £1,000 per annum. I should like to know how much the dissenting minister gets in a parish where the clergyman is receiving £1,000 per annum. The clergyman receives this money from the poorest of the poor, and he also receives a portion from the dissenting minister, who often only gets from £60 to £70 a year, and yet you call upon him to pay an extra amount of rates in order that the clergyman of the Church of England may receive a reduc-

tion of £60 per annum upon his rates. The thing is positively unfair and unjust. I cannot really understand how any hon. Gentleman opposite, looking at the matter in a fair way, can fail to agree with us that at any rate this reduction should be allowed only to those clergymen with salaries below £200 per annum. As a matter of abstract historical logical justice we ought not to give this money to the men who really have already a sufficient income, and have a far greater income than the average clergyman in any part of the world. It is nonsense to talk about a clergyman in a small country parish with £1,000 a year not having too much. I should like to see the whole of the money put into one fund and paid out according to the services rendered. If this were done the Church of England would be able to pay these clergymen without "sponging" on the community and without asking us to help men who are getting £1,000, £2,000, and in some cases £3,000 per annum. (Mr. TALBOT: "No, no.") The right hon. Gentleman says "No," and perhaps he knows a great deal more about it than I do. I am not myself in the Church, and I do not represent a university; therefore, I do not enter into these details like the right hon. Gentleman opposite. But the right hon. Gentleman is an able speaker, so I will sit down to let him get up and explain how many livings there are above £1,000 a year, and I hope the right hon. Gentleman will follow me.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan, Mid.): The real ground for this Bill is that there are a certain number of livings in the country where the parsons feel the pinch of poverty, and this is the real ground on which this measure is brought forward. The right hon. Gentleman opposite knows perfectly well the position of these poorer clergy, and yet he proposes to still further endow the rich livings of this country. The right hon. Gentleman is driven, in opposition to this very reasonable Amendment, to say that he does not do it to relieve poverty, but as an extension of what is fair and just in what he calls the principle of rating. But there is no principle of rating underlying this Bill at all, and no rating principle can be adduced by anybody on that side of the House in opposition to the Amendment of my hon. friend. The right hon. Gentleman in

charge of the Bill says you ought to deal with all clerical incomes alike, and you ought not to tax professional incomes. But what sort of an income is dealt with in this case? The right hon. Gentleman says it is income, but I contend that it is not income at all. Suppose a man was appointed to a living two years ago, and it was worth £600 or £800. That man knew that out of that sum there would be certain deductions for rates and other matters amounting to about £200, and he knew that the net amount he would have was not £800 but £600. Now that man under this Bill is having a gift given to him of £40 a year. It will not do for the right hon. Gentleman and his friends to say, "We were forced to do something for the poor clergy, but we could not give £10 a year to a man with £150 a year without giving £40 to a man with £600 a year." The amount paid to the clergy is not income. The doctor has his patients, the lawyer his clients, and the shopkeeper his customers, but the incomes of the clergy are not founded on this principle. I venture to say that in many parishes in the country the people from whose land the tithes come do not go to that particular church at all. Therefore, how can you call it income in the sense of a man who earns his money in a profession like that of the law or of medicine? The whole case made out is not one of principle at all, but one of dole. You were content when the Agricultural Rating Bill was before this House with the statement that it was a mere temporary expedient, and now it is said that because the Agricultural Rating Act relieved those in occupation of agricultural land we ought to do the same for the parsons. The Secretary to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, in answer to a question, stated that:

"The landowner having had his turn, the tithe-owner now thinks that his time has come."

You have pretended to give the farmer this relief, and now you say it is the turn for the Church. Supposing a widow had a sum of money left her three or four years ago, or at the time when Home Rule was before the country, when Consols were very high—I believe they got up to 115. Why should you not extend this principle, and make up the loss to this lady which she has sustained in consequence of the fall in the price? But these clergy-

Mr. Samuel Evans.

men have an association, and we find the hon. Member for Tunbridge sending leaflets broadcast to the poor clergy in the rural districts, inviting them to put their wails and sufferings before Parliament. I do not know exactly what the price of a curate is, but he was priced and valued by the hon. Member opposite at £150. It is curious to note that in some of the instances which are given in the evidence there are livings specified, and one witness—the Rev. Mr. Jepp—who is a justice of the peace and deputy-chairman of Quarter Sessions, said he thought there should be a uniform abatement in every benefice, because he thought "one man's services were as good as another theoretically." I do not suppose that we should have had this complaint if the Bill had been confined to the propositions contained within the four corners of this Amendment, and I should be very much surprised if the richer clergymen are not unanimously of opinion that this relief should be given to the poorer clergy. I do not know what the Rev. Mr. Jepp has to complain of, for his living is worth £323 a year and his net income is £244, while the whole church accommodation in his parish is only 450. Can it be said that that man is badly paid for administering to the spiritual needs of his congregation, when he cannot possibly get more than 450 people in his church? I know many Nonconformist ministers, who have much larger congregations, would be very glad if their incomes were brought up to £244. I will give another instance where the gross income of the living is £272, and this will be excluded if this Amendment is carried. Now, the net income in this case is £188, but what is the population of that parish? I dare-say the Committee will be astonished to hear that the entire population is only seventy-nine people all told. The question is whether you ought to give relief to this man, who has only got seventy-nine people in his parish, and who already gets this large sum of money. This Amendment is most pertinent to this particular case, for the church accommodation in this instance is only sixty. This clergyman cannot stow more than sixty people when his church is full, and I have no doubt that he has ample room for his congregation. Is that a case in which you ought, under this Bill, to take money out of the public funds to assist

these people? The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Oxford University said there were not many livings worth £3,000 or £2,000 a year, but in this very Return there is a living in the county of Norfolk where the gross income is £1,254, which is more than an Under Secretary gets. The right hon. Gentleman says the clergyman has to pay curates £300, but if he does not do the work himself but employs curates to do it for him he ought to pay them. I do not think his work is so great that a curate is necessary. In the parish to which I have just alluded the church accommodation is only 365, and such cases might be multiplied over and over again. I think, however, two or three cases are as good as two or three dozen, and I do not want to weary the House. These are instances given from the appendix to the Report, and they are very material to the question which the Royal Commission considered. If the Government are bound, as a temporary expedient, to have recourse to the public funds in order to put money into the pockets of the clergy, why do you not confine your generosity to the case of the poor vicar and the poor rector? We are quite astonished that you should come to the public funds at all for this purpose. I suppose the noble Lord the Member for Rochester will claim that the adherents of the Church number ten millions. If that is so, all it means is that each member of the Church should give another twopence a year out of their own pockets. Do you really have so little regard for the comfort of your clergy and so little regard for their power of usefulness that you are prepared to say that the members of the Church of England will not put their hands in their pocket to provide another twopence per head per annum to make up this £87,000 which is proposed to be voted to the Church by this Bill? I do appeal to hon. Gentlemen opposite who are supporters of the Government to vote according to their consciences on this question, and if they do so, I believe they will be bound to go into the lobby to prevent these public funds from being given to those men who are already amply remunerated.

MR. CRIPPS (Gloucestershire, Stroud): With regard to this particular Amendment I would appeal to hon. Members opposite to consider whether it would not be wholly inconsistent with every prin-

ciple of rating ever applied in this country to make a difference in rating where a man was receiving a large income or a small one. Would any hon. Member opposite suggest that if a man only possessed five or six houses his property should be rated differently so that of the man who owns a much larger number? If this Amendment is carried in its present form it will have this effect, for it is inconsistent with every principle of rating which has been carried in this House.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: Why not reduce the rating upon the houses?

MR. CRIPPS: What I am trying to point out is that if this Amendment is carried it will make this Bill absolutely inconsistent with every principle of rating in this country by making a distinction between large owners and small ones. I challenge any hon. Member opposite to give a single illustration to show that the circumstance of a man deriving a large or a small income from the same kind of property has ever been made a reason for altering the rating of that property. That is what this Amendment seeks to do.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: This Bill is the illustration.

MR. MCKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): In this very Bill a distinction is drawn between the same kind of property where it is held by a clerical person and a layman.

MR. CRIPPS: I think that interruption shows that my point has not been appreciated by the hon. Member. I am not going back to the whole question, but I am now dealing with this particular Amendment, and I am perfectly ready to admit that there is that distinction. What I wish to point out is that every member of the Royal Commission, except one, quite irrespective of politics, came to the conclusion that a distinction should be drawn between the two classes of property. It is not a question of poverty. The Agricultural Rating Bill was put forward because in the opinion of Sir Alfred Milner a certain class of property was really paying double what it ought to pay. That is the simple fact. I should like to refer to the remarks

of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton, who is an admitted authority on such topics. We say in this Bill, not that this property should not be rated, but that it has been rated on a wrong basis and a wrong principle. That is the whole case, and it has not been met by hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite. It is an argumentative and difficult point, and the Royal Commission, having spent twenty or thirty days in hearing evidence, and having devoted an enormous amount of attention to it, came to the conclusion that tithe rent-charge was unjustly rated. Starting from that premises we ought to have immediate legislation such as is now suggested to remedy the injustice. I go further, and say it is the first step in the reform of local taxation so far as our recommendations are concerned. The only way to remedy matters of this kind is to seek for injustices and deal with them one by one. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton referred to what was done in 1836, but what was done then is quite irrelevant to what we are now discussing. The object then was to have in all cases rateable property assessed on the same basis in every instance. That was simply all that was done, but that has nothing on earth to do with the proper principle and basis upon which rating should be assessed. Speaking for myself, I cannot for a moment argue that this is not rateable property, or that it should not be rated as other property. The question is, is it so rated at the present time or not? The Royal Commission thought not, and therefore we ought to deal with this tithe rent-charge on the same basis as other property. The theory of this Amendment is to deal with property in different ways according as a man has a large or a small amount. It is absolutely inconsistent with every principle of rating, and apart from the question of poor man's prejudice, I do not think a single responsible Member with any knowledge of rating will rise and say that the principle involved in this Amendment is one that can be adopted without upsetting the whole theory and principle of rating in the country.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: The hon. and learned Member has challenged us on the main proposition that property

Mr. Cripps.

ought to be rated on the same footing, whatever its value may be, and he asks us to point out an exception to it. This Bill is the exception. He says with reference to land generally that no enquiry is made whether the income a man derives from it is £100 or £1,000. That is perfectly true, but you rate all land alike, and you do not rate all tithe alike. You have introduced a personal distinction; you have violated every law of rating by basing this Bill on the principle of personal distinctions. The Government were wise enough not to raise the question of personal service. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of this Bill never uttered the words "personal service." He knew what a rotten principle they involved, but the hon. and learned Member has let the cat out of the bag. If this Bill is to be based upon personal service, is the personal service to be the same in the case of the man who gets £1,500 a year as in the case of a man who gets £200 a year? The moment you come to personal service you must assess that service. But if that is to be assessed, why not the rectory house as well as the tithe rent-charge, and everything else from which an incumbent derives any income? The hon. and learned Gentleman has ruined this Bill. Now that we have got rid of the poverty argument and got on the ground of personal service, I think the contents of this Bill are utterly destroyed. I was longing all the time that we should get to personal service, because greater nonsense was never talked on the subject than by the Royal Commission from the Report of which the hon. and learned Gentleman has quoted, though really he is only quoting himself. I suppose the hon. and learned Gentleman is the original and sole discoverer of personal service, but as a foundation for this Bill it cannot be maintained for a moment. If the discussion on this Amendment has been somewhat extended, it is due to the fact that the right hon. Gentleman immediately the Amendment was moved started upon the fundamental principles of the Bill. If the right hon. Gentleman is entitled to discuss the fundamental principles of the Bill, surely Members on this side are entitled to follow him. The hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Stroud said the fundamental principle of the Bill was that all property should be rated alike, but then you introduce a Bill

which distinguishes between tithe given to the owner of a benefice and tithe given to other people. Is that the fundamental principle of the Bill? I think we on this side ought to be extremely obliged to the hon. and learned Member.

MR. HALDANE (Haddington): Like the right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down I rise to express my satisfaction that the hon. and learned Member opposite has recalled the Committee to the real point at issue. We have heard of the property argument based on the Report of the Royal Commission. Hon. Members opposite defend that Report but the Bill condemns it. The Commissioners proposed that there should be a deduction which would represent what it would cost to employ a curate. But the Bill throws that overboard, and proposes to pay half the rates, whether a curate is employed or not, and it draws no distinction between the cases which the Commissioners recommended as fit for deduction and cases to which no such consideration was given. What is the use of quoting to us the Report of the Commission as an argument in favour of the proposal we are now discussing? What is the gravamen of the attack on this side? It is that you are not treating this property in the ordinary way. I should have thought that the Government would take some steps to bring under review the case of the Queen *v.* Sherman. As long as that case stands you are not entitled to make the reduction you are now setting up. If that case is wrong why not take it to the House of Lords? That tribunal will not be prejudiced in any appeal brought on behalf of clergymen of the Church of England. We have challenged the Solicitor - General on previous occasions to say that we are wrong, and he has not got up to defend the principle of this Bill. In face of these considerations it must be held that the Bill is really based on a footing of kindness and a disposition to assist the clergy who are in difficulties. I sympathise with them, but it is impossible for us to look at the matter on any other footing. The £200 limit is at the bottom of the controversy, and on that we must go to a Division.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): It is really distressing to see the

inaccessibility of the other side of the House to argument, or at any rate to statement. Her Majesty's Ministers have told the House over and over again that this Bill is founded, not on mercy, but on justice. This Amendment is, however, based on the theory that the Bill is founded on mercy; but if the Bill is founded, as my right hon. friend has informed us, on justice, there is no reason why the amount should be limited. Before I part from the argument of mercy, let me say that I feel personally what the Government do not feel—that this Bill is to be largely defended on grounds of mercy. That is not the official view, and that is not the view in which any hon. Member on this side will vote. He will vote for justice and mercy. There is no ground whatever for the Amendment. Justice is our plea. The hon. and learned Member for Stroud stated that this Bill is an alteration in the method of rating to bring it into accord with justice. The Bill to my mind leaves rating exactly where it is, but provides some of the rate on the ground of justice. I am a disciple of my hon. and learned friend as to the method. He says that the grievance is that a sufficient deduction has not been allowed, and that it is necessary, in order to place the owners of the tithe rent-charge in the same position as the owners of other rateable property, to provide by legislation for further reductions. If this Bill has not taken precisely that method, it may perhaps in its career through this House be brought into accord with it. I have an Amendment myself which is based on the principle of deducting a certain amount and allowing for it. I think the Bill may be open to amendment in respect of method. All I wish is to appeal to hon. Gentlemen opposite to accept the grounds on which the Bill is based, and to reject from their minds all notion of mercy and all ideas of distressed clergymen going about looking for bread to give them strength to preach their sermons on the next Sunday. We have nothing to do with that in this Bill. It is to be solely discussed upon the principle of justice, and on that ground I think the present Amendment is entirely misconceived and must have emanated from the mind of an hon. Gentleman incapable of appreciating the high principle of justice. I, for my part, mean to stand on the ground of justice, and I am accordingly

bound to vote against this Amendment, which is based on the ground of mercy.

MR. M'KENNA: My hon. friend who has just spoken has defended the Bill on the ground of justice, but has altogether forgotten the fact that although this Bill is based on the eternal principles of justice it is only to last for two years. If ever there was a Bill which, on the face of it, bears the character of urgency it is this measure. It is to meet a pressing case, and we are warned that when the Royal Commission finally reports this as well as other questions affecting local taxation will be dealt with at the same time. If you limit the application of this Bill to cases where the tithe rent-charge is under £200 a year you would, as the hon. and learned gentleman opposite contended, be allowing a reduction of £100 a year for personal service, because the result is exactly the same whether you pay half the rates on £200 or deduct £100 in respect of service. If a man gets over £200 a year we are assuming that he is overpaid, and we do not propose any deduction in that case. In carrying out this principle we are acting more fairly than if the Bill is left as it now stands. Instead of giving an equal reduction to all, you are giving very much to the very rich, less to the less rich, and nothing at all to the poor.

*MR. OL德ROYD (Dewsbury): One statement has been made by the hon. and learned Member for Stroud (Mr. Cripps) which ought not to go unchallenged. Perhaps he rather despises the criticism of hon. Members on this side of the House, but we ought at all events to adhere to facts, and I distinctly challenge the accuracy of some of his statements. The hon. and learned Member said that in the case of those tithe-owners to whose incomes a certain sum for rates was added under the Commutation Act, that that was done for the purpose of establishing a rateable property. I challenge that statement on the ground that the tithe was rateable property before, and that therefore there was no necessity for the change.

MR. CRIPPS: The question is in whose hands the property was.

*MR. OL德ROYD: My contention is that it was already a rateable property, and that rates from time immemorial had been paid upon that property. The only

change made by the Commutation Bill was to transfer payment of the rates to the man who received the tithe rent, for which purpose a sum was added equivalent to the then existing rates. At the very opening of the Debate in 1836, when the Commutation Act was passed, Lord John Russell entered upon this question. He did not introduce his Bill under a Ten minutes' rule, but he gave a very explicit statement of the circumstances of the case and of the line upon which the Government proposed to proceed, and one of his allegations was distinctly that it was for the purpose of uniformity that that procedure should be adopted. When the Commissioners came to look into those cases they found several methods of communication already in existence. In some cases the tithe-payer was the farmer, and in some cases he was the incumbent, and it was necessary that there should be one uniform method. Therefore Lord John Russell in introducing the Bill gave a very good reason for the procedure he proposed, and that was because, as he said, it was desirable that the incumbent should rank himself with other parishioners as a fellow-ratepayer in the parish, and that their interests should be identical to get the rates progressively lowered. Therefore I contend that the statement of the hon. and learned Member is incorrect, as is proved by the reason assigned for that procedure which was given by Lord John Russell in introducing that Bill. The hon. and learned Member also said that the basis of rateability in the case of tithe-rent charge was different from that of other property, and he entered upon a discussion of the personal element, that the tithe rent-charge was receivable on account of services rendered by the clergy. But that is contrary to all the facts of the case, and the misconception arises from the fact that hon. Members have had regard to the destination of the income rather than to its origin. All the tithe rent-charge arose and issued out of the land. That is the fundamental principle of the charge, and therefore as it issues out of the land it is rateable property. If we try to arrive at the reason why from time immemorial that property has been rateable we must go back to the time when tithe was levied in kind, when the parson went into the field and took the tenth sheep or the tenth portion of the produce, whatever it might be; and under those circumstances

Mr. Gibson Bowles.

it was very reasonable when a man came into the field at the time of harvest—not at seed time, or the time of harrowing, or ploughing, or labouring—that he should at least pay rates on the property which he came and took from the industrious farmer who brought the crops to maturity. He was an illustration and an instance of those gentlemen who received their income but who “toiled not neither did they spin.” He came and took the fruits of the soil. These are the facts of the case, and it is but reasonable that he should pay the rates on that portion of the produce which he took away. Therefore I am unable to see how the hon. and learned Member, or any other Member who advocates this Bill, has established that there is any injustice in the rating of the tithe rent-charge like all other property. Seeing that the principle of justice fails, it seems to us on this side of the House that we can only account for the introduction of the Bill on the ground that it is an act of mercy or charity. That being so I shall support this Amendment, because I believe it will reduce the amount of pillage which will be dishonestly drawn out of the general taxpayers' pocket, and put the balance in the hands of men who will know how wisely to spend the money.

*MR. MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston): Hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House have appealed to these benches to accept the principle on which the Bill is said to be based—namely, that of justice—and they have thought that we were rather hard in declining to accept it. I will tell them why we decline to accept that basis for the Bill. We maintain that this plea of justice is a pretence which is not only false, but demonstrably false. In truth the real interest of this Debate to see how long the farce of pretending that this grant is not an endowment will be kept up. It is because it is an additional endowment of the Church of England that I support the Amendment. I do not care whether the Amendment is the best mode of stopping the proposed grant. It reduces it, and I am determined that I will keep that additional endowment as small as I can. One thing is quite certain, that unless the Government exercise such discipline over those men of their Party who understand the subject as to keep them from speaking it will be impossible to maintain this farce. I

was delighted to see and hear the hon. and learned Member for Stroud—not that I underrate his ability; I have too often been his foe to do that—getting up and saying he would make short work of the Amendment, because he could show that it would be an excrescence on the whole rating system. He was right in this, but the Amendment is an infinitely less ugly excrescence than the Bill itself. I felt sure that although he might make short work with the Amendment, he could not speak for many minutes without making shorter work with the arguments of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill. When I came into the House I heard the hon. Gentleman challenge the Opposition to controvert the proposition that a clergyman who was a tithe-owner was the only person rated on his income. Well, the proposition was so absurdly stated that I was not surprised that it was not answered from this side of the House. The answer was reserved for the hon. Member for Stroud himself. Before he had finished three sentences of his speech he pointed out that the owner of every rateable property was rated on the income of that property, and therefore every person whose property consists of rateable property, if he is foolish enough to consider his income as the gross income of that property, is rated on that income. But if either he or a clergyman is sensible enough to realise that his true income is the net income of that property, neither he nor the clergyman is rated on his income. The whole case lies in a nutshell. It does not matter whether the tithe is in the hands of a layman or is an endowment of a benefice. Since the Act of Elizabeth no human being has ever been the beneficial proprietor of the gross tithe. He has only been the beneficial proprietor of the net tithe, and if you choose to attach the tithe to a benefice, all the income you have thus given to the benefice is the net tithe, and you have no business to talk about that income being rated. It is not until after it is rated that it becomes an income. When you turn to the Tithe Commutation Act—which has been described in various language by different Members, but which was drawn in the simplest possible language—what do you find? The framers of that Act took care that every tithe-owner got into his hands in the first place the gross tithes, in order that they might be doing justice in making him the

person who was to pay the rates, so that after paying the rates he would be left in possession of the net tithe. There was no mystery about that. The object of the Tithe Commutation was simply to put the gross tithe in the hands of the tithe-owner, because he was unquestionably the man who had to pay to the community its share of the revenue, which left him in possession of the only property he ever had in it—namely, the net tithe. I should very much like to hear any hon. Member on the other side of the House get up and deny that that was what was done by the Tithe Commutation Act. Well, the consequence is that the lay impropriator or clergyman is in receipt of the net tithe. How does the lay impropriator get it? Why, he buys it. What does he pay for? The gross tithe? No, he pays for the income that comes out of the net tithe, and when he gets the net tithe, he gets all that he purchased. Now let me turn to the clergyman. How does he get it? He accepts a living with certain duties, and in return he gets the net tithe. He purchases it not by a capital sum, but by an undertaking to do certain work, and that is just as much a purchase of the net tithe, and not, therefore, the gross tithe, as if he paid £2,000 for it. The hon. Member for King's Lynn, I think it was, suggested that there should be a reduction of the rate upon tithes for personal services; but the clergyman has acquired the net tithe in return for personal services.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg the hon. and learned Gentleman's pardon. I did not make that statement.

*MR. MOULTON: Well, perhaps I ought to have referred to a suggestion by the hon. Member for Stroud. Let us hear no more about deductions for a curate or deductions for personal services. The clergyman not had to pay a capital sum to acquire the right to take that net tithe. The clergyman had to undertake that he would do something for it; and do you mean to say that it is in accordance with either justice, or any principle of rating, that a man can deduct from the income of rateable property the cost of acquiring that property by himself?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must invite the hon. and learned Gentleman to approach the consideration of the question now before the House. The argument he is addressing to the Committee is not relevant to the Amendment.

Mr. Moulton.

*MR. MOULTON: I should accept instantly your decision, Mr. Lowther, but I would point out that this is a question of reducing the endowment. We say, therefore, we are justified in disregarding the plea of injustice, and restricting the increase to as small an endowment as possible. I am now dealing with the suggestion that it is an injustice, because there are certain services by which the clergyman gets possession of the tithe. I leave myself entirely in your hands, but I submit that my argument is very relevant to the question of whether this is a matter of justice in which all tithe is to be treated alike.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That question is raised by a subsequent Amendment.

*MR. MOULTON: I think I may remind you that we were challenged by the hon. Member for Stroud to go into this very matter. However, I accept your ruling, and pass on. We are dealing in this case with an Amendment which says that only the poorer clergy should have this endowment. Now I can quite understand why the Government oppose an Amendment like this, just as I can understand why they give no relief to the lay impropriator. They do not know who he is, and he might be a Liberal. The poor clergyman may know enough about poor people to be a doubtful supporter of the Government. But there is no doubt about the rich clergyman. It is safe to go firm upon that. The consequence is that they naturally oppose the suggestion that the relief should only be given to the poorer clergymen. Now, on what principle is that to be done, that we should give this relief to all the people who own tithes? Is it to be said that it is a question here of the nature of an income from tithes? It is admitted that there is no case whatever in which a property should be increased by a gift from the State in this way to the owner. What was said in regard to the Agricultural Rating Act? That the relief was given to the tenant farmer, and that it was ridiculous to suggest that the landlords would receive it. If this is to be considered as a case, not of poverty, but of endowment—well, then, the last shadow of any justification for bringing in this Bill must go, and it must be looked upon as a deliberate gift to the rich in proportion to their wealth.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): If any hon. Member is justified in sup-

porting this Amendment, it is a man like myself, who represents one of the largest and poorest parishes in South London. Much has been said about the poor country parson, but not a word about the poor London parson. London is paying out of all proportion in regard to this Bill, to support the country parson. We are called upon to produce £19,000 for the relief of parsons, rich and poor alike, throughout the country, while of that sum we obtain only about £900. When my poor constituents go to Kennington Oval, they see it swarming with country parsons enjoying their ease, and looking on at cricket matches ; they think it a hard case that they should be rated to further add to the luxury and comforts of the rich parsons. I speak on this question as a Churchman. If there is any desire to improve the position of the poor parsons throughout the country, the best way is to allocate some of the huge funds in possession of the wealthiest Church in the world for that purpose. When I tell my constituents in South London that the Archbishop of Canterbury has an income three times that of the Prime Minister, and draws £15,000 a year, and when they see all round them poor clergymen, Church of England as well as Nonconformist, doing, not the light work of the country parson, but more heavy and magnificent work in the poorest parts of London, I think they will say that it is the duty of the higher parsons in the Church of England to allocate some of these huge funds to the poor clergy. Reference has been made to personal service. Does it not occur to those who make such references that the Church of England is based upon personal service ? Are not advowsons bought and sold every day in the open market, and whoever buys an advowson has imposed on him the necessity, within six months, of appointing some one who will give personal service. This Bill endows the Church of England ; it endows equally the rich and the poor parson, but it endows the rich parson in a degree out of all proportion to that which it endows the poor parson. Furthermore, it endows the rich landlord who has been already relieved of the rates on agricultural property. The shop-keeper is rated at an average of 6s. or 7s. in the £, and has the greatest difficulty in making both ends meet. And yet this over-rated citizen, who works quite as hard

as the London clergy, and far harder than any country clergyman, is called upon to re-endow out of his scanty earnings a Church to which probably he does not belong. The poor Roman Catholics, after they have made great sacrifices in order to pay their own clergy, have further to pay the parson of the Established Church, and furthermore, they are called upon to augment to a certain extent the value of the advowsons. The ratepayers of London have good reason to feel that they are not being treated with anything like justice by hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite. The principle on which this Bill is based is "To him that hath more shall be given," and giving less to the poor man than to the rich. If the Church of England is in need of funds, surely it is possible to do what was done by the Protestant Churchmen in Ireland. As soon as their endowment was practically taken away, the Irish Protestants put their hands into their pockets, and in most instances doubled the income of the parsons. We say it is the duty of the richest Church in the country to do what is done every day by the Nonconformists. What we feel most keenly in London is that those who belong to Nonconformist churches should be called upon to pay twice over, and out of all proportion to their means.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Burghs) : The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down has spoken for a large urban constituency. I have been waiting in vain for any hon. Gentleman on the other side, a representative of a large urban constituency, to get up in his place and defend this Bill. This Bill is to some extent on the same principle as the Agricultural Rating Act, under which London lost £400,000 a year. I would ask if the representatives of London and the great urban constituencies are going to allow another vast amount of money to slip through their fingers, and to be paid in larger part to the rich clergy of the country. The hon. Member for Stroud said that this Amendment, if passed, would be inconsistent with every principle of rating. Well, the Government which the hon. Gentleman supports have done many inconsistent things in the past, and there is no reason why they should not do another. Take the case of the Voluntary Schools Bill for instance. In that case they departed from every principle upon which public

schools had been treated before. I believe if it were put to the taxpayers of the country, and a plebiscite taken upon it, it would be found that 99 out of every 100 would reject the Government proposal without the slightest hesitation.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 155 ; Noes, 251. (Division List, No. 230.)

AYES.

Abraham, W. (Cork, N.E.)	Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.	Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Allen, W. (Newc.-under-Lyme)	Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H.	Pease, J. A. (Northumb.)
Allison, Robert Andrew	Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)	Perks, Robert William
Ashton, Thomas Gait	Horniman, Frederick John	Pickard, Benjamin
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Hy.	Humphrey-Owen, Arthur C.	Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Atherley-Jones, L.	Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)	Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs, SW)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Jacoby, James Alfred	Price, Robert John
Baker, Sir John	Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.	Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)	Joicey, Sir James	Reckitt, Harold James
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)	Rickett, J. Compton
Billson, Alfred	Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hon Sir U	Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Birrell, Augustine	Kearley, Hudson E.	Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling	Kilbride, Denis	Robson, William Snowdon
Broadhurst, Henry	Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth	Runciman, Walter
Buxton, Sydney Charles	Labouchere, Henry	Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Caldwell, James	Lambert, George	Schwann, Charles E.
Cameron, Robert (Durham)	Langley, Batty	Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	Lawson-Sir Wilfrid (Cumb land)	Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Causton, Richard Knight	Leng, Sir John	Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Cawley, Frederick	Lewis, John Herbert	Souttar, Robinson
Clough, Walter Owen	Lloyd-George, David	Spicer, Albert
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.	Logan, John William	Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Crilly, Daniel	Lough, Thomas	Steadman, William Charles
Crombie, John William	Lyell, Sir Leonard	Stevenson, Francis S.
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	Macaleese, Daniel	Strachey, Edward
Dalziel, James Henry	MacDonnell, Dr MA (Queen's C)	Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)	MacNeill, John Gordon Swift	Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Davitt, Michael	M'Dermott, Patrick	Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles	M'Ewan, William	Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
Dillon, John	M'Kenna, Reginald	Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Donelan, Captain A.	M'Laren, Charles Benjamin	Ure, Alexander
Doogan, P. C.	Maddison, Fred.	Wallace, Robert
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)	Maden, John Henry	Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Duckworth, James	Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)	Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Dunn, Sir William	Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand	Wedderburn, Sir William
Edwards, Owen Morgan	Middlemore, J. Throgmorton	Weir, James Galloway
Ellis, John Edward	Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)	Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)	Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)	Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Farquharson, Dr. Robert	Morley, Charles (Brentshire)	Williams, John (Arrell (Notts.)
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)	Mooley, Rt Hon J. (Montrose)	Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond	Morris, Samuel	Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
Flynn, James Christopher	Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)	Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)	Moulton, John Fletcher	Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry	Norton, Capt. Cecil William	Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Goddard, Daniel Ford	Nussey, Thomas Willans	Woodhouse, Sir JT (Huddersfd)
Gold, Charles	O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)	Woods, Samuel
Gourley, Sir E. Templer	O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)	Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)	O'Dwyer, Mark	
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton	O'Malley, William	
Haldane, Richard Burdon	Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)	TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William	Palmer, George W. (Reading)	Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Harwood, George	Paulton, James Mellor	Mr. M'Arthur
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale.		

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden	Baird, John George Alexander
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Balcarres, Lord
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Balfour, Rt Hon Gerald W. (Leeds)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Banbury, Frederick George
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bailey, James (Walworth)	Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)

Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt Hon Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants)
Beckett, Ernest William
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull

Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.	Milner, Sir Frederick George
Bethell, Commander	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Milton, Viscount
Bigwood, James	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Milward, Colonel Victor
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	Monk, Charles James
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme	Goschen, Rt. Hn GJ (St George's)	Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Bousfield, William Robert	Goulding, Edward Alfred	More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)	Graham, Henry Robert	Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh)
Bowles, T Gibson (King's Lynn)	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Morrell, George Herbert
Brassay, Albert	Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)	Morton, Arthur H A (Deptford)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)	Mount, William George
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Greville, Hon. Ronald	Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Bullard, Sir Harry	Gunter, Colonel	Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Butcher, John George	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles	Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Carlile, William Walter	Halsey, Thomas Frederick	Nicholson, William Graham
Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward	Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert W.	Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Hanson, Sir Reginald	O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Hardy, Laurence	Pender, Sir James
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Hare, Thomas Leigh	Penn, John
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)	Heaton, John Henniker	Phillpotts, Captain Arthur
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Helder, Augustus	Pierpoint, Robert
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)	Henderson, Alexander	Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r	Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter	Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Hill, Arthur (Down, West)	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Charrington, Spencer	Hoare, Edw. B. (Hampstead)	Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Chelsea, Viscount	Hobhouse, Henry	Purvis, Robert
Clare, Octavius Leigh	Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)	Pym, C. Guy
Clarke, Sir E. (Plymouth)	Hornby, Sir William Henry	Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E	Houston, R. P.	Rankin, Sir James
Coddington, Sir William	Howard, Joseph	Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Howell, William Tudor	Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chs. Thomson
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil	Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole	Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn	Round, James
Compton, Lord Alwyne	Hudson, George Bickersteth	Royds, Clement Molyneux
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Rutherford, John
Cranborne, Viscount	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Cripps, Charles Alfred	Jenkins, Sir John Jones	Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)	Savory, Sir Joseph
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Jolliffe, Hon. H. George	Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Curzon, Viscount	Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.	Seton-Karr, Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Kenyon, James	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chat.)	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William	Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
Denny, Colonel	Keswick, William	Simeon, Sir Barrington
Dickson-Poynier, Sir John P.	Kimber, Henry	Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Digby, J. K. D. Wingfield.	Knowles, Lees	Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Lafone, Alfred	Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dlxon	Laurie, Lieut.-General	Spencer, Ernest
Dorington, Sir John Edward	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Doughty, George	Lecky, Rt Hn. William Edw. H.	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie	Stewart, Sir Mark J. M' Taggart
Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	Leighton, Stanley	Strauss, Arthur
Doxford, William Theodore	Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)	Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Drucker, A.	Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.	Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart	Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)	Thorburn, Walter
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller	Thornton, Percy M.
Fardell, Sir T. George	Lorne, Marquess of	Tollemache, Henry James
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward	Lowe, Francis William	Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Finch, George H.	Lowles, John	Tritton, Charles Ernest
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Loyd, Archie Kirkman	Usborne, Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes	Lucas-Shadwell, William	Valentia, Viscount
FitzWygram, General Sir F.	Macartney, W. G. Ellison	Wanklyn, James Leslie
Flower, Ernest	Maclean, James Mackenzie	Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)	M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)	Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)	M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)	Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Galloway, William Johnson	Malcolm, Ian	Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Garfit, William	Martin, Richard Biddulph	Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
Gedge, Sydney	Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W.F.	Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)	Williams, Jos. Powell. (Birm.)
Gibbs, Hn. A.G.H. (City of Lon)	Melville, Beresford Valentine	Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)	Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.	Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Giles, Charles Tyrrell	Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.	
Giliat, John Saunders	Mildmay, Francis Bingham	

Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir
William Walrond and Mr.
Anstruther.

*MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract): I rise to move the Amendment which stands in my name, and I venture to think it is one which is well worthy the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. The Amendment will have the effect of placing the Bill on all fours with the Agricultural Rating Bill of 1896, of which it is said to be the corollary. While the tithes from agricultural land have fallen in value from 100 to 68 per cent., urban tithes levied on land have increased in value. Moreover, clergymen in country districts are dependent almost wholly upon the tithe, but the clergy in towns are not so dependent, and do not require this relief. The income of the urban clergyman is derived principally from pew rents, and he has many means of increasing his income if he only does his duty.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'rent-charge,' to insert the words 'derived from agricultural land.'"—(Mr. Nussey.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. LONG: The hon. Gentleman fails to realise that whether the tithe rent-charge arises out of agricultural land or not, the effect on the owner is the same. The tithe rent-charge in urban districts is governed by the same laws, the same conditions, as that derived from agricultural land, and its incidence is the same. Therefore I see no reason for drawing a distinction between the two classes of owners, more especially as the Committee have already decided in a most emphatic manner that it is undesirable to draw any such distinction.

MR. MCKENNA: I hardly think the right hon. Gentleman fully appreciates the very able and interesting speech of the hon. Member who moved this Amendment. What is the principle of this Bill? That tithe rent is certainly rateable, but that certain deductions should be made in respect of services. There is a great distinction between the parson in the country and the parson in the town. The parson in the town has direct remuneration for his services by his pew rents and Easter offerings, and in large towns the congregations can reward the services of their ministers. But the

same reward is not open to the country clergyman. The deduction which might be reasonably made for services in the case of the country parson cannot on the same terms be made to a London parson, because he is specially paid for his services. Therefore my hon. friend's Amendment is absolutely in conformity with the only principle of this Bill, as laid down by the hon. and learned Member for Stroud, when he asks that a distinction should be drawn between these two classes of clergymen.

MR. HARWOOD: I think the right hon. Gentleman was not quite right in the impression that he gave the Committee in regard to the difference between the tithe on agricultural land and tithe on suburban land. There is really a distinction between agricultural land and suburban land, and we are giving relief to the tithe-owners of agricultural land really because tithe has fallen in value. But the right hon. Gentleman knows that the value of tithe on suburban land is increasing all over the country.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: I think there is very strong reason for supporting my hon. friend's Amendment. The bargain made in 1836 was a bargain advantageous to the tithe-owners; therefore my hon. friend was right in saying that in towns where there has been no reduction in the tithe the clergy are not entitled to this relief.

MR. ASQUITH: Those who voted in favour of the Amendment previously before the House are logically bound to vote for this. It is perfectly true that the value of £100 tithe rent-charge varies according to how it is derived from the land, but it is not on that account that we commend this Amendment. The object of this Amendment, as I understand it, is to distinguish between necessitous cases and those where there is no necessity at all. It is impossible to study the evidence before the Royal Commission without coming to the conclusion that a real grievance was placed before the Commission. That arose, I do not say the whole of it, but a great part, from the Agricultural Rating Act of 1896. It was because the clergymen were left out of that Act that they now come forward and claim this relief, and now say that they are assessed at a much

greater amount than they have ever been assessed before. I think they have a perfectly genuine grievance in that respect. The Act was thoroughly unjust in its operation as between the different classes and the land itself. I have to pay additional rates in my rural parish because you have given this relief to the land. That is the state of things which we have got to deal with, and the effect of this Amendment is to give relief where the effect of the Agricultural Rating Act is to throw new and additional burdens on the clergy, and that is the ground on which I support it.

MR. LEWIS : There is one consideration which has not been dealt with in this discussion, and that is that in the case of urban districts where the land is covered with houses no tithe rate ought to be charged at all. It is a great injustice that it should be charged, but it is, though not a single ear of corn grows upon the land nor is an animal fattened upon it. I do not think, however, that we should lessen any of those charges which have been properly made upon it. I observe from the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman that this Amendment is not brought forward on the ground that it is desirable to give to the clergy the same kind of relief given two years ago to the agricultural land. One ground after another upon which the Bill is defended is being given up, and we may soon find ourselves faced by a Bill which logically has not a leg to stand upon.

MR. LABOUCHERE : My right hon. friend said that this was not a question of necessity but of justice. He puts it this way, that these unfortunate clergy for about fifteen centuries had been paying more than they were entitled to do. My only surprise is that the right hon. Gentleman did not suggest that they should have compensation for the amount which they had paid during that time. I listened with attention to my hon. friend who moved the Amendment, and when he commenced I had an open mind, but he thoroughly convinced me, and nobody on the other side has dared to tackle the Amendment. The object of this House is not only to pass legislation, the country expects these questions to be thoroughly thrashed out. We are in the position of fishers trying to angle the arguments of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and though

occasionally an hon. Gentleman gets up and nibbles a little, he will not swallow the bait and meet our arguments in an honest and frank manner. The difference between London and the country with regard to this question has been pointed out, but one thing which has not been dealt with, and which has always been urged by country clergymen, is that in a great many parishes there are no wealthy men and the clergyman has the Voluntary schools and the subscriptions to the blanket fund and so on thrown upon his own hands; but that is not so with regard to the urban clergy. If we accept the Minister of Agriculture as spokesman, who tells us we ought in justice to restore what the clergy have been deprived of all these centuries, we should not vote for this Amendment.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) : There is a clear distinction between the case of the minister in the country and the clergyman in the town. In the country the clergyman is dependent almost, if not quite, entirely upon the tithe. I do not think this is the case with the clergyman in the towns. Owing to their different surroundings they cannot live wholly on the tithes. In the case of London, a few clergymen will obtain this relief simply because they happen to be parish clergymen, and therefore entitled to receive tithe, but by far the greater number of clergymen, who are in charge of voluntary churches, will not receive any relief whatever. Upon that practical ground I support the Amendment.

MR. LOGAN : My hon. friend below me has put me in rather a difficult position, because before I heard him I thought it would be a good thing to put the whole burden on those living in towns, in order that it might waken people up as to the doings of the present Government. But, having listened to my hon. friend, I shall support his Amendment, because if it is passed I think it will minimise the evils of this Bill.

MR. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton) : I shall also vote for this Amendment, although I think it might have been put in a different form. I think it will eventually come all right. It is not a question so much of where the tithe comes from, but where it goes to, and it should go to

the clergy who derive their income from the land. This Amendment will exclude the clergymen of the towns, no doubt, but I would much rather that it should have been worded in a manner which would have made it direct than in the indirect way in which it at present stands.

MR. LLOYD - GEORGE: I am sorry the Government cannot accept this Amendment, because this proposal was placed in the forefront of the argument that as the landowners had received relief the tithes should receive the same. There was not a witness who gave evidence before the Royal Commission who did not base his proposal on that principle. The proposal to extend the relief to all titheowners in town as well as in country, whatever the basis of the ownership of the tithe might be, goes beyond the case which had been made out by the Commission on Local Taxation, and beyond the fair interpretation of the recommendations of that Commission. There is no proof of any demand being made before the Commission for relief on behalf of clergymen who derived their tithe from property other than agricultural land, and I challenge hon. Gentlemen opposite to produce any. Is it fair that the community should be taxed in order to benefit the urban clergy, who have never even complained or made out in any way that they had a grievance? In the urban districts the Church is enormously rich. There was a Bill down from the House of Lords with regard to one diocese in Manchester, where some property of the church was sold, and the price obtained for that property was so large that the bishops and archbishops in the House of Lords came to the conclusion that it was too large to divide between the four canons, and they appropriated some to the other cathedral clergy. The property of the clergy in towns has increased enormously in value, owing to the increase of population in the towns and the industry of the population, and it is most unfair to tax those people for the benefit of clergy who are already deriving great advantages from the urban communities.

***MR. PERKS:** I shall support this Amendment. Many of my constituents are people who have been called in this debate Churchmen, meaning merely Anglican Churchmen, and it is a curious fact that I have not received a single letter from squires, landowners, farmers, or even labourers, asking me to vote for this Bill. I can quite conceive the hon. Members representing urban districts having had appeals made to them to vote for it, but none have come to me. One thing might be suggested in support of the Bill, but it has not been, namely, that this money is being given for services rendered. That argument might make the Bill more attractive to the farmer and the labourer, who might feel that they, out of their small incomes, were relieving the Anglican clergy. I think this Bill should be limited to those clergy who derived their income from agricultural land.

***MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS:** I also support this Amendment. I do so on the ground that as this really is a Clergy Relief Bill, the relief should be limited to those who really need it.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Bright-side): There is one very good reason why this Amendment should be carried, and that is, if it is carried it will reduce the amount which the Government proposes to give the clergy under this Bill. It is no reason, because the Government gave the landlords something to which they were not entitled, that they should not have been consistent, and give the parsons something as well. They did not do so, and it is only natural that the parsons should now ask for this relief. I do not agree with what the Church teaches, though many devout men that I know do; and if you allow the working men to look upon a certain number of the clergy as mere mendicant friars, you will not increase their respect for the Church itself. I support the Amendment because I believe the Bill is a bad Bill from beginning to end, and anything which reduces its evils must be good.

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 98
Noes, 181. (Division List, No. 231.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Baker, Sir John
Barlow, John Emmott

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight

Cawley, Frederick
Clough, Walter Owen
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Davitt, Michael

Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir C.
 Dillon, John
 Donegan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Edwards, Owen Morgan
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir W.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sir U.
 Kilbride, Denis

Lambert, George
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'n's C)
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merth'
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Reckitt, Harold James

Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Runciman, Walter
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
 Mr. Nussey and Mr. Goddard.

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Captain J. FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Baird, John George A.
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man's)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)
 Bethell, Commander
 Bigwood, James
 Boscowen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Butcher, John George
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Wore'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, F. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, F. Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh

Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Alwyn Edwd.
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Galloway, Wm. Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Godson, Sir A. Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Tr. Atter

Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Houston, R. P.
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swan.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpl.)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis Willian
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 M'Fadwa, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)

Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H.A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Pender, Sir James
 Phillipps, Captain Arthur
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs. Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Ridgway, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.

Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chs. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Hon. W.F.D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stock, James Henry
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.

Tollemache, Henry James
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-Wynndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks. E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. LAMBERT: The Amendment which I have to propose raises rather an important point, and it seems to me that a great deal of confusion exists in regard to this matter. In reply to a question, the right hon. Gentleman said that

"it was not correct to say that the sum was generally added in respect of rates. It was only added where the rates had been previously paid by the tithe-payer and not by the tithe-owner."

If that were true, that would show that this had been added in respect of rates only in a very few cases. I must, however, quote against the right hon. Gentleman the evidence given before the Royal Commission on Agriculture by the Secretary to the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Elliott). In answer to a question by Mr. Little :

"No. 39,058. Would it be right, do you think, to say that the large majority of the cases were those where rates had been paid by the tithe-payer?"

Mr. Elliott replied :

"I think a very large proportion undoubtedly fall into that category."

He also stated :

"It seems to have been a very general practice for the tithe-payer to pay the rates instead of the tithe-owner."

Therefore the answer of the right hon. Gentleman conveyed somewhat of a wrong impression when he said that it was not correct that a sum was generally added in respect of rates, because Mr. Elliott states that it must have been the general practice.

MR. LONG: I did not intend to mean by that answer that the sum added in

respect of rates was only in a few cases. The hon. Member referred only to a particular sum.

MR. LAMBERT: I think that hon. Members will agree with me that Mr. Elliott's evidence shows that the tithe-payer pays the rates, and not the tithe-owner. My contention is that a very large sum was added to the composition paid by the tithe-payer to the tithe-owner, and paid by the tithe-owner in the shape of rates. I think it is quite clear, from the evidence given before the Royal Commission on Local Taxation, that it was a very general practice that money was added for the payment of tithes. This morning I received—as I have no doubt many other hon. Members did—a communication from the Tithe Rent-charge Owners Union, which professes to deal with this subject. It says :

"There is abundant and indisputable evidence that, so far from having anything added to the tithe in 1836, the reverse was, in fact, the case in a very large number of instances."

I cannot understand why a gentleman in the position of the secretary to the union should have thought it right to endeavour to mislead the Members of this House in this matter, for these statements are misleading if the figures which have appeared in the public Press—notably in the *Daily News*—are correct. It was stated in the Press that there were 4,784 cases dealt with, and out of this total no less than 4,743 tithe-owners had their incomes increased at the time of commutation, and only forty-one had their incomes decreased, and twenty-five of these incumbents whose incomes were reduced averaged about £12 apiece. Therefore I contend that the Tithe Rent-charge

Owners' Union know perfectly well that they have a very bad case indeed when they endeavour to mislead the House with facts of this nature before us. The amount that was added for the rates was a considerable sum indeed. It is very difficult to get at the precise amount which was added, but I will quote the evidence given by Mr. Alfred De Bock Porter, the secretary to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, which owns £300,000 a year tithes in every county. In answer to a question he said :

"I have taken four parishes in Northumberland, four in each Riding of Yorkshire, six in Nottinghamshire, six in Suffolk, six in Gloucestershire, six in Bedford, six in Sussex, six in Denbigh and Flint, and six in Glamorgan, and I have made a summary of them. From this summary it would appear that, taking these cases, the composition payable by the tithe-payer at the time of commutation amounted in the aggregate to £24,512, the rates which were also paid by the tithe-payer (the parson having his income net) were £5,708; those two added together made £30,220, and I find that the rent-charge allotted on the aggregate to all those was £30,751 or about £500 more. The average rate over the whole taken at the time of commutation on that group of rent-charges was 4s. 7½d. in the £, whereas in 1894-5 according to the Local Government Board they were 2s. 4½d. The average of the old rates at the time of commutation came to about 5s. in the £."

Therefore, they were commuted at that price. If these figures are correct which have appeared in the public Press it means that no less than £244,569 was added to the tithe-owners' income for the payment of rates. As regards the rates payable to-day the right hon. Gentleman estimates the amount by which the tithe-owners will be affected by this Bill at £175,000. I may be told that all tithe-owners are treated alike, but if that be so, it makes the case for the Bill all the worse. The right hon. Gentleman puts the total affected by this Bill at £2,412,000, but if we take Mr. De Bock Porter's figures as accurate it would work out at £602,000 which the clergy were paid for rates at the time of the commutation in 1836, and that shows how much the clergy have benefited by the reduction, seeing that at the present moment they only pay £175,000. These commutations were enormous in many cases. I have read the evidence given by one of the Members for Dorsetshire, which shows that, in many cases, sums were added to the in-

comes to a very large extent indeed. He says :

"In the above thirteen parishes on an actual tithe of £5,174 no less than £1,926, or 37½ per cent., was overpaid in 1893."

Now, that £1,926 was added to the tithe-owners' income, which was not paid in rates in 1893 because the rates have decreased. I think that is the evidence of a gentleman who will be accepted on the other side, because he has made a special study of this question. The right hon. Gentleman stated that it was a very great hardship indeed to the tithe-payers that they had to pay this enormous burden which was added through the rates being commuted. I have a case here which I think is a very striking one. There is a parish in Buckinghamshire where upon £1,500 the owner has to pay no less a sum than £347 for rates. I think that is a very large sum indeed. At the present moment if that gentleman pays rates at 2s. 6d. in the £ he will pay £125, whereas at the time of commutation he paid £347, which was added to his income for the payment of rates. Therefore, he has been receiving £222 for the payment of rates during the whole of the years which have elapsed since the tithes were commuted. I ask the right hon. Gentleman is it fair or right that, after the tithe has been commuted on so high a scale, and after such an enormous amount has been added to it for the purpose of paying rates, you should now come to the general ratepayers of the country to ask them to pay these rates over again? I am sure that if the right hon. Gentleman will only apply his mind to this question, he must see that this is an undoubted case of hardship, and I would ask him whether he thinks that such a state of affairs will commend this Bill to the rural ratepayer.

There are many towns where the ratepayers pay extraordinarily high rates for their houses, and it is a notorious fact that many public improvements are stopped in many of our great towns because of the fear of putting up the rates, and yet the Government are actually taking this money from these already overburdened ratepayers to pay half these rates which had a large sum added to them at the time of commutation. It seems to me that the right hon. Gentleman is doing the very worst thing he could in the interests of the Church. (Mr. Long : "No,

no.") I should like to give the right hon. Gentleman a few instances from his own County of Essex where there are now tithes paid to the extent of 7s. an acre. I say that this is a clear case that the amount was added to the tithe-owners' income, and now the right hon. Gentleman comes to the ratepayers again and asks them to pay another half of these rates. I trust to the right hon. Gentleman's own sense of fairness to accept this Amendment, and not let it go forth to the country that it is a reproach to the Government that they brought in a Bill which practically makes the tithe-payer pay the rates of the clergy twice over. I am sure that if the right hon. Gentleman will give attention to the matter he will see that my Amendment is not only in the interest of the ratepayer, but also in the interest of the tithe-owner, and I feel sure that nothing will stir up hostility to the Church more than the injustice which will be done if this Amendment is not accepted. I beg to move—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'rent-charge,' to insert the words 'which had no addition at the time of commutation as an equivalent of rates and taxes.'"—(Mr. Lambert.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. LONG: If the Amendment is accepted it will defeat what the Commissioners, who carried out the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, laid down as being the main object of the Act. They indicated quite clearly that their object was to make the position of both parties the same, both with regard to that period and the future. The hon. Gentleman has told us that a large sum was added to the tithe in order to meet the rates, and I gathered from his concluding remarks that it had come from the tithe-payers, but it is a complete delusion to say that that sum came out of the pocket of the tithe-payer. Previous to the passing of the Commutation Act many people had arrived at an arrangement, and in some cases the tithe-owner included in his private arrangement a stipulation that the tithe-payer should pay the rates and pay the balance left over to the tithe-owner. The difference be-

tween the net tithe receivable and the total sum only affected the tithe-owner. It made no difference to the tithe-payer whether he paid the money to the tithe-owner or to the rate collector, for he had already made an agreement with the tithe-owner by which he had agreed to act, as it were, as his agent and to pay the rates.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: The rates were provided for.

MR. LONG: No; that is not so. The object of the addition in such cases was, as the Commissioners said, that in both cases, whether the tithe-owner paid the rates or not, the ultimate settlement should give him the gross amount to which he was entitled before. The Commissioners say :

"Circumstances connected with the payment of parochial rates may occasionally form a ground for applications to increase or diminish the sum named by the great amount of composition on rates. We understand the main object of the Tithe Commutation Act is to perpetuate in the form of tithe rent-charge the same thing the parties themselves have treated as tithes during the seven years previous to Christmas 1835, with the exception of certain specified cases and subject to a variation in all to the extent of one-fifth of the whole of such sums. While doing this it is also the purpose of the Act to put on the same footing the tithe-owners who have paid their own parochial rates and the tithe-owners whose rates have been paid for them by the tithe-payers, and therefore in two parishes in both of which tithes have been treated as worth £600, the tithe-owner in one has received £600 and paid his own rates and in the other the tithe-owner has received £400 and £200 has been paid for him as rates, that £200 must be added to the £400 to make up the tithe-owner's real average and put him on a footing with his neighbour."

To draw a distinction between them now would be to do a great injustice to those who received an addition in order simply to put them on a level with those from whose tithe no deduction had been made. In the circumstances I hope the Committee will resist the Amendment.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I am not disposed to quarrel with the statement of the right hon. Gentleman as to what took place at the time of the Commutation Act, but I want to examine the principle of the Bill. First of all, I was

M. Lambert

very glad to hear from the right hon. Gentleman the admission that what the tithe-owner was entitled to was not the whole of the tithe, but the composition. The composition was the tithe less the rates. Taking the gross tithe to be £100 and the rates £20, the right hon. Gentleman has now admitted that all the tithe-owner is entitled to was £80.

MR. LONG : I said nothing of the kind. I am sorry to interrupt the right hon. Gentleman, but—

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT : You did not mean that.

MR. LONG : I have endeavoured to make it clear that what I meant was that the tithe-owner was entitled to £100.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT : Would the right hon. Gentleman let me see the Report ? The Report of the Commissioners distinctly states that what the tithe-owner got was the composition arrived at by private arrangement with the tithe-payer. I am sorry to say that I am old enough to remember the time when the tenth sheaf was taken out of the field. That of course was where there was no composition. Now I will take it that the rates at that time were £20 out of £100, and the tithe-owner, agreeing with the landowner, consequently got £80. That was the net tithe, which was his property. Then came the Commutation Act, which was perfectly fair, which added to his income the amount of the rates in order that the clergyman should pay them. The fallacy which lay at the root of this whole question is the belief on the part of the clergy that they were always entitled to the £100 without deduction. We do not understand that before commutation they were only entitled to the net tithe, whether they compounded or not. It is an entire fallacy to suppose that they had any hardships in this matter as it has worked out. That is material to the claim of justice. They are better off than they were before commutation, because, the rate being less, therefore the net tithe was greater, so far from being a grievance. They are in a better position than they were supposing at the time of the commutation

the rate was 5s., and it is now 2s. 6d.; they are 20 per cent. better off. The right hon. Gentleman (Mr. Long) nods his head, but in that case what is the meaning of the Bill ? The right hon. Gentleman has spoken with great accuracy and frankness, but his speech is a condemnation of the Bill. The fact that the rate has fallen was a great compensation for the fact that the tithe rent-charge had fallen. The fact is that the Bill is based on a complete misapprehension of the whole case. The Government ought to look at the real facts and know what they are. The alteration in the rates is one of the most material elements in the problem. It seems to me that the right hon. Gentleman has proved that there is no foundation for this reform of rating.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester) : I do not know on what principle the right hon. Gentleman manages his own private affairs in connection with rating, or whether he considers it an adequate consolation for losing 30 per cent. of his income that his rates should be diminished by one-half at the same time, which is the consolation he offered to the clergy.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT : I specially guarded myself from including the consideration of the fall in the rent-charge, but I alluded to it because the Government declared that that has nothing whatever to do with their Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I would only point out to the Committee that whatever other merits the speech of the right hon. Gentleman might have, it is not addressed to the Amendment before the House.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT : It was addressed to the Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : It might have been addressed to the Bill at large, but not to the Amendment. The hon. Member opposite moved an Amendment in which he endeavoured to draw a distinction between the case of the tithe rent-charge to which there was an addition at the time of the commutation and of that to which there was no addition. There is really not a single argument in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman which dealt

with that distinction, and therefore the support the right hon. Gentleman has given to the Amendment is very slight and scant. The right hon. Gentleman said the whole root of the difficulty of the Bill and the grievance of which the clergy complain, is that they think they are entitled to the full tithe rent-charge without deductions. I can only say I have never heard any clergyman, however solicitous of the rights of his order, put forward a contention so preposterous as that. The only contention I have heard put forward by the clergy is that they possess for services rendered a rateable property, that they desire that that property should be rated on equitable terms, and that the terms on which they were rated at the present time were not equitable. The right hon. Gentleman knows far too much about the subject to be dragged into the vulgar fallacy of supposing that there was no claim properly to be urged by the clergy on account of the private arrangement which they made before the commutation period with regard to the payment of rates. When that commutation was made all those private arrangements were swept away, and what was put in their place was this—that the clergy were to be entitled to the whole of the tithe rent-charge, subject to the rates, that might properly be paid upon the account of that property. On that arrangement the right hon. Gentleman seems to base the contention that any reform of an injustice, if injustice there was, is quite impossible. Are hon. Members prepared to say that because these inequitable rates have been levied for ten or twenty years or for a generation or two, therefore no reform can be claimed by the persons who are paying these rates? Such a contention it is quite impossible to maintain, and the distinction which it is attempted to draw between two kinds of clerical tithe-owners is an impossible, illogical, and unhistorical distinction.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman has unconsciously given away the case against the Bill; he has admitted that the state of things left at the time of the Commutation Act was that the clergy in respect of the tithe rent-charge were to be entitled to the proceeds of the tithe, subject to the payment of the rates.

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Of a rate.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Let us know what we are fighting about. The clergy in 1836 who paid rates received only that amount of the tithe which remained after the rates had been paid. That is admitted by the right hon. Gentleman. Whether they compounded or did not, they received the residue of the tithe. For what do they receive it now? Exactly the same thing. Therefore where is their grievance as compared with 1836? There would be a grievance if the rates had greatly risen in the meantime, but instead of rising they have fallen. That has been proved over and over again. So why is it that the clergy have less comfortable incomes now than then? If it is so it is because of the fall in the prices of agricultural produce, which has brought down the value of tithe-rent-charge. That is not dealt with in this Bill and is not the ground of the Bill. If the ground of the Bill had been charity and mercy, as we thought it was—it was the only conceivable ground that we could imagine—there would be some cause for our compassionate consideration whether we should meet it or not on the plea of a reduction in their incomes owing to the fall in prices. But, no, the Bill is put forward to remedy an injustice. Where is the injustice as compared with 1836? You have to go behind 1836 to find the injustice you seek to amend. But do you amend it? If the law of rating was unfair let us alter the law; but we leave the law of rating as it is, and we are to pick out from all the incomes derivable from land, directly or indirectly, in the way of rental or rent-charge, a particular part of that rental which came to the beneficed clergymen, and we are to say these are to receive a dole or gift out of the benefice of Parliament, and all the other holders will receive nothing at all. The Bill is not a solution or an amendment, or founded on any claim of justice. The claim of mercy has been repudiated, and it is out of the mouth of the right hon. Gentleman himself that evidence has come that that is not the case.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: As I understand, the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury bases his argument

entirely and solely upon the fact that the value of the tithe rent-charge is diminished by 50 per cent. But the hon. Member for Stroud has told us that this Bill has been introduced to remedy the iniquity arrived at in the year 1836. Now, the arrangement of 1836 has been regarded even by tithe owners as not merely equitable, but as advantageous. The right hon. the First Lord of the Treasury said that it was quite inequitable that rates should be levied upon this class of property.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : Everybody admits that tithe is a rateable property.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS : Then there is no injustice at all, even though the clergy have got to pay rather more than they expected. I commend to the right hon. Gentleman, very respectfully, an answer given by Mr. De Bock Porter, Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Commission, who said, "My view is that, on the whole, tithe commutation was a wonderfully equitable arrangement." The right hon. Gentleman said it was inequitable; then I do not understand the Bill. If it were equitable in 1836, why do you wish to alter it now? And if it were inequitable, what about Mr. De Bock Porter? Anyone who has studied the references to the Act of 1836 must acknowledge that it is perfectly clear that in cases where there was composition, not only very fair sums, but large sums were added to the tithe rent-charge, and an extraordinary sum was added in respect of the rates. Take the case, for instance, of the parish of King's Haven. The tithe composition amounted to £1,370, and the rates paid by the landlord to £146, a total of £1,500. But the tithe rent-charge was commuted at £1,755, or an addition over the rates and composition of £255. What was that addition for? If you are seeking to relieve these people, tell us what reason there was for adding that large sum of £255 over and above the composition and rates. The truth is, that the clergyman made arrangements to accept a certain lower sum than the tithe when the rates had to be paid by the tenant on the farm. There is a very interesting passage which I would quote from a very learned book dealing with this subject—

'The Commissioners are directed to estimate the value of the tithes without making

any deduction therefrom on account of any Parliamentary, parochial, county, or other rates, charges, and assessments to which tithes are liable; and whenever the tithes shall have been demised or compounded for, on the principle of the rent or composition being paid free from all such rates, charges, and assessments, or any part thereof, the Commissioners are to regard that circumstance, and to make such addition on account thereof as shall be an equivalent. A regard to this circumstance was, in fact, very generally necessary, and in most of the agricultural parishes the valuation of tithes had always proceeded upon the principal of deducting from the amount to be paid the estimated amount of the rate; and this latter, being retained by the occupier, was a compensation to him for the larger amount of rate assessed upon the land held by him, in consequence of no rate being actually paid upon the tithes. This system, although irregular and informal, was probably found convenient, and worked no injustice, so long as the parish was entirely agricultural, and nothing rated but the land. But in parishes partly agricultural and partly manufacturing, or where large houses were subjected to a heavy portion of the rate, the injustice and inconvenience of such a system were obvious, for the land thereby enjoyed a benefit to which it was not properly entitled, there being nothing to compensate the householder and manufacturer for the increased amount of rate which they had to pay in consequence of the exemption of the tithe. The system, nevertheless, continued to be very common up to the time of the commutation of the tithes; so much so, that in many instances the liability of the tithe to the payment of any rates had been overlooked or forgotten, and many of the parochial agreements first made and sent to the Commissioners contained no notice of or provision for the rates, and were consequently returned by them, in order that the sum equivalent to the rates might be added. The rent-charge now payable instead of the tithe is to be subject to all Parliamentary, parochial, and other rates, charges, and assessments, in like manner as the tithes commuted from such rent-charge have theretofore been subject.'

And then the author goes on to say:—"As a proposition of law, we cannot assert now" that services ought to be deducted, or that it is "a fact deducible from scientific axioms too clear for controversy."

"That discussion we purposely decline, preferring to say merely that *Rex v. Joddrell* does not convince us that there was any difference in the legal liabilities of the tithe-owner and the occupier of land. If any case should arise in which the facts show that the rule, though formally applied according to the statute, which work injustice to the tithe-owner, there will be no more difficulty in relieving him than in relieving one landowner as against another. But the facts of this case call for no such interposition. It is now, therefore, clearly settled that there is no difference between tithe

or tithe rent-charge, and any other hereditaments in their relative liabilities to be rated; but that tithe and tithe rent-charge are to be rated upon an estimate of their net annual value."

Now, the book from which I have been quoting is "A Practical Treatise on the Law relating to the Church and Clergy," by Henry William Cripps, M.A., Q.C., late Fellow of New College, Oxford, Recorder of Lichfield, and Chancellor of the Diocese of Oxford, for whose views upon the matter, as a lawyer, we have the utmost respect, when not tainted by political surroundings, or by his extraordinary position on the Royal Commission.

MR. ABEL THOMAS (Carmarthen): The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House said that the tithe-owner in 1836 was inequitably dealt with. That very likely might have justified bringing in this Bill at that time, but I cannot see how it justifies the Bill of the present day. Every clergyman of to-day has accepted his tithe rent-charge for services he is going to render, knowing exactly how much rates he would have to pay on that tithe rent-charge, and therefore it is no injustice that they should be called upon to pay the rates. I cannot conceive of any instance of a clergyman who in 1836 did not at the time of commutation have an addition made as an equivalent of the rates and taxes. It is quite true that in some instances the clergymen themselves paid the rates. But in these cases the tithe rent-charge was immediately increased by the amount of the rates. In other cases where other people paid the rates it was sometimes against the clergyman, and sometimes very much in his favour; but in the end he succeeded in getting the best of it when the tithe rent-charge was commuted. I venture to think that when this Amendment is carried, there will not be a single person in the whole of Great Britain who will be entitled to claim that half his rates shall be paid by somebody other than himself. I am so satisfied of that that if the Amendment is carried I could not oppose the Bill any more. I am perfectly certain that there are not twenty clergymen in the country who will be able to get anything out of the Bill at all. Every clergyman who, since 1836, has taken a living in which he is to be paid by tithe rent-charge has

known exactly what he is doing; and there can be no injustice in maintaining the agreement into which he has entered.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I propose to vote against the Amendment. After going fully into the matter, I am bound to say I cannot see that any distinction can be drawn between those owners of tithe rent-charge and their successors who had no addition made in 1836, as an equivalent of rates, and those who had such addition made to the tithe rent-charge. My contention is that the Tithe Commissioners provided for all the rates that were paid in 1836 or to be paid, and that is a very strong reason why we should not reduce the rates on the tithe rent-charge by one-half, as proposed by the Bill.

***MR. PLATT-HIGGINS (Salford, N.)** asked how the mover of the Amendment could discriminate between the man who paid his own property tax, receiving £150 from his tenant, and another whose tenant paid £5 property tax for him and handed him only £145! The discrimination seemed to him absolutely untenable. He differed also with the right honourable Member for West Monmouth, who had argued that by the Commutation Act the tithe owner had benefited by the fall in rates. Tithe owners had benefited just as all other ratepayers, neither more nor less, but the benefit did not accrue from the Commutation Act. That Act provided that if the rates on a tithe of £100 amounted to £20, then the owner received only £80, but clearly if the rates fell to £10, it would be £90 that the tithe owner would be entitled to receive from the tithe-payer.

MR. MOULTON: I think that those who have heard the Debate will come to the conclusion that this is one of the most valuable Amendments introduced, because it has drawn three admissions either from the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill or from the Leader of the House. The first one is this. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill not only admitted, but argued, that the sole function of the Tithe Commissioners was to estimate the gross tithe, so that it might be put into the hands of the tithe-owners.

Mr. Samuel Evans.

He was obliged to take up that position, because the hon. Member who moved the Amendment pointed out that certain tithe-owners got not only the rates and the tithe, but subsequent additions, and therefore he pointed out that that which guided the Commissioners in all cases was the intention to put the gross tithe in the hands of the tithe-owner. We quite agree with that. We quite agree that the additions which were made in certain cases were for the purpose of remedying any inequalities which might arise from a private arrangement that had existed before the Tithe Commutation, so that all tithe-owners alike should be in possession of the gross tithe. Then the Leader of the House came on the scene, and he admitted that the person who took the whole of the tithe commutation (whether layman or clergyman) took it subject to the payment of the rates; and finally there came the admission of the right hon. Member in charge of the Bill, that those rates had fallen. Therefore, putting these three admissions together, we have this—that the Tithe Commissioners gave to every tithe-owner the complete gross tithe which he took on terms of paying the rate, and that rate had fallen. If you put these three things together, and hunt for the injustice, it occurs to me that you will take some time to find it. That tithe, which fluctuated with the price of agricultural produce, and which was meant so to fluctuate, is less burdened by rates than it then was. What I want to know is whether, after these admissions, there is any injustice left which the persons who in 1836 accepted the Tithe Compensation Act can now complain of.

MR. LOGAN: An hon. Member asked just now what we were fighting for. We contend that the clerical holder of tithe rent-charge, when the Commutation Act was passed, was allowed a sufficient sum of money to enable him to pay his rates over and above the tithes he received. If so—and the fact cannot be disputed—it seems a great injustice for the Government to come forward and say that the community shall put their hands in their pockets to enable the clergy to pay their rates on the tithes they now receive. (An HON. MEMBER: Who pays the money?) An hon. Member asks me who pays the money. Of

course it is impossible to convince certain hon. Members opposite of the injustice of the present proposal, but perhaps they will allow me to quote the evidence of Mr. Farquharson, who when he was in this House sat on the Conservative side. That gentleman gave evidence before the Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1894, fully bearing out the contention of those of us on this side who say that the clerical tithe-owner has made a very considerable profit since the Act for the Commutation of Tithes was passed. Now, what did Mr. Farquharson say :

"31,995. I think you would like to say something as regards the tithe question?—I should like to do so.

"What is it you would like to say as regards that?—I wanted to give evidence before the Royal Commission on tithes, but my evidence was refused by Lord Basing, who was the Chairman, because he said that this Commission was only to inquire into the best way of redeeming tithes, and not as to the excessive character of the tithe. I submit that the tithe all over England is very much higher than it was ever intended to be by the Tithe Commutation Act. The object, I believe, of the Tithe Commutation Act was to give to the tithe-owner the same net value after the Act passed as before, and in order to do that they sent round Commissioners to ascertain what the average net value had been of the tithe to the tithe-owner for the preceding seven years. That average was to be part of the par value for the future, but as in the future the tithe-owner would have to pay rates, they also said to him: 'What has been the average rate in your parish during the past seven years?' The average rate at that time was very high on account of the old Poor Laws.

"What period are you alluding to at this moment?—I am speaking of the seven years preceding the Tithe Commutation Act, which I think was 1836. The consequence was that they made enormous additions to the par value of the tithe in order to enable the tithe-owner to pay rates in future. Take the instance of a tithe-owner who said: 'The net value of my tithe has been £100 on an average for the last seven years, and the rate in the parish on an average of the past seven years, has been 10s. in the £.' The Tithe Commissioners said: 'Very well, your par value in the future is £150—that is £100 to give you your old net value, and £50 with which to pay those rates.' But the moment that the new Tithe Act came into force, the new Poor Law came into force, and the rates which had been 10s. in the £ went down to 2s. 6d. in the £. The consequence was, this tithe-owner, who ought only to have had £112 10s.—that is, £100 for himself, and £12 10s. for rates—got £150, leaving him £137 10s. for himself, and £12 10s. for the rates. It would be so easy, if the Government were in the mind to do it, to take the Tithe Commissioners' reports, be-

cause in nearly every instance they keep them separate. You see in one column the net value of the tithe, and in the next column you see what is added for rates, and those two columns added together make the par value now. What I submit ought to be done is this—you should say: 'Very well, strike off the whole of that column of the amount added for rates, leave the tithe-owner what was intended to be his real tithe, and let the tithe-payer in the future pay the rates on the tithe, whatever they are, high or low.' I could instance a parish in Hampshire—the parish of Tadley; in that parish they actually added 19s. in the £ for rates, making the par value at the time nearly double what it ought to have been. I wrote two or three years ago to ascertain what the rate at that moment was, and, if my memory serves me, it was 1s. 3d. in the £. There are parishes in Essex and the Eastern Counties where the Poor Law has been badly administered. There you will find now, of course, the tithe is enormously high on account of these additions for rates."

In the face of these figures, I say that there is no injustice whatever done at the present time. On the other hand, the Government propose to do a gross injustice to the poor of this country, by taking from them money wherewith to pay the rates of those men whose rates were fully allowed for, and who are today making a considerable profit on the Act of 1836. The hon. Member for one of the Divisions of Dorsetshire took me to task at an earlier period of the evening for saying that the man who dwells in a cottage and receives his miserable 9s. or 10s. a week—for this is the wage that is paid in Dorsetshire—made his contribution to the relief of the clergyman. He pays it in his rent, however small the proportion may be. [Ministerial laughter.] Hon. Gentlemen may laugh, but would they be able to pay the rates if the land was unoccupied, and there were no farmers or labourers there to earn the rent for them? I am surprised that the Government, while claiming credit for doing an act of justice, should still persist in doing what is undoubtedly an act of gross injustice to many of the poor people of this country. It is an act for which, I am thankful to say, they will have to answer to the country by-and-bye.

MR. LLOYD - GEORGE : An hon. Member opposite spoke a few minutes ago of the case of a person who paid the inhabited house duty on behalf of his landlord. He said it was exactly as if it were a case in which the rent was £150, but instead of the landlord paying it the

tenant pays £145 rent and £5 inhabited house duty; and he quoted that case as perfectly analogous to the one which is at the foundation of this Amendment. But he did not state the whole case. It is exactly as if the tenant had undertaken to pay £5 towards the inhabited house duty, and it had been reduced to 30s. He then comes to the House of Commons and says, "It is true I agreed to pay £5, and that it is now reduced to 30s., but I appeal to the House to reduce it further to 15s., because it is too high." He has already profited by his bargain to the extent of £3 10s. at the expense of the general body of ratepayers, and says, in effect, "Although I have made a profit of £3 10s. out of this transaction, I insist upon the Government putting another 15s. in my pocket." But that is not the whole case. The First Lord of the Treasury has put it as if the rates were deducted in the first instance out of the gross tithe, and afterwards added to it. What really occurred was this. There were agreements in existence between the tithe-owners in the country and the landowners, whereby the burden of the rates was cast entirely upon the landowner. But these agreements were long-standing agreements; they were not agreements that had been entered into a few years before the Tithe Commutation Act. They had been entered into some ten, twenty, or thirty years before, and at the time the rates were not very high. Seven years before the Tithe Commutation Act was passed the rates in this country were low, but the landlords were under the impression that one result of this Act would be that the rates would go up; they therefore thought that the best plan for them was to stick to their bargain. But the rates have gone down by something like three-quarters in certain cases. The First Lord of the Treasury said, if there is a reduction in the rates it is a reduction which is common to all ratepayers in the United Kingdom. Yes, but all the ratepayers in the kingdom do not come to the House of Commons and ask us to pay half the balance; and, what is further to the point, they do not get this compensation in lieu of rates added on. The rates have gone down in the rural districts from which most of these tithes are derived, and the clergymen benefit from the reduction. That is not the case in the towns, where the rates have gone

Mr. Logan.

up very largely. Whereas the rates of the gentleman who was relieved by the general body of ratepayers have gone down from 9s. in the £ to 2s. and 3s. in the £, the rates of the persons who are called upon to relieve him have gone up from 2s. and 3s. to 6s., 7s., and sometimes 10s. in the £. The Report of the Land Tax Commission, upon which the Bill is founded, is one complete suppression of the salient facts of the case. These gentlemen say that the rates on the tithe rent-charge were only 2s. 6d. in 1883, and that now they are 3s. But why do they not go back to 1836, which is the crucial date? At that time the rates on tithe were 9s.; since then the burden of the general rural ratepayer, including the parson, has been relieved by grants in aid from the State to the amount of millions of pounds, while the rates of the urban ratepayer have been doubled, in some cases quadrupled. (Ministerial laughter.) I hope that when the time comes it will not be forgotten that the grievances of the urban ratepayer are regarded by hon. gentlemen opposite as a fit subject for laughter and ridicule. (Ministerial laughter.) I do not think that that laughter will continue after the next General Election, for hon. Gentlemen opposite will not then be here to laugh.

MR. M'KENNA: I have to offer my apologies to the hon. and learned Member for Stroud for my complete misconception of his attitude in arguing this subject. From my experience of his great legal learning I had come to the conclusion that he must necessarily thoroughly understand this question, and I was therefore surprised to see the attitude he has taken up in the Debates in this House and in Committee. My confidence in the hon. Member has been entirely destroyed. I have had placed in my hands a work written by him on the subject of tithe and tithe-rent charge, and I should like to read to the Committee the head-notes of one single page of this work. They are most peculiarly appropriate to the subject now under discussion. The first head-note is: "Equality of rating necessary," the

second, "Application of this rule"; the third, "Application to tithe rent-charge"; the next, "Is this to be the principle upon which tithes are to be rated?" another, "Difficulty of applying such a principle," and "Error and incorrectness of the principle." As a champion of the Bill the hon. Member has refuted every principle on which this Bill is based in the impartial book he has written on the subject. If you go behind the statutory settlement of the question you have got to re-open a state of things which already has the success of sixty-three years behind it. To do that in this partial manner without a full inquiry, and in the teeth of the strong opposition, not only of hon. Members on this side of the House, but of the towns throughout the country, is, I venture to think, a very grave mistake. The Amendment of my hon. friend proposes to leave the statutory settlement as it stood in 1836, and I appeal to the Committee to accept that Amendment.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: I should like to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture why it was that in addition to the amount of the rates £58,000 was added in 1836.

MR. LONG: I have explained the point more than once. Two sums were added to what the hon. Gentleman who spoke last night called the composition, but which ought to be accurately described as the balance of the composition. One sum represented the average of the actual rates paid during the preceding seven years. In addition to this where the Tithe Commissioners found it necessary in order to secure a fair bargain they were empowered to allow an increase of 20 per cent. or a decrease of 20 per cent. In the Parliamentary Return there were cases on both sides, as the Commissioners had thought the bargain unfair to the tithe-payer or the tithe-owner.

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 151; Noes, 264. (Division List, No. 232.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Wm. (Newc.-un'r-Lyme)
Allison, Robert Andrew
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atherley-Jones, L.

Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine

Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James

Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M'Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Owen Morgan
 Evans, Sir F. H. (Southampton)
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbt. John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
 Joycey, Sir James

Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hn Sir U
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
 Labouchere, Henry
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumb'land)
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'n's C)
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, C. Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitcchaple)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breckshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hon. J. (Montrose)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George W. (Reading)

Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Perks, Robert William
 Phillipotts, Captain Arthur
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighsh.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Sinit, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Strachey, Edward
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
 Woodhouse, Sir JT (Huddersf'd)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr.
 Lambert and Mr. Evans.

NOES.

Aird, John
 Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscowen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)

Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Butcher, John George
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Bir.
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir E. (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge

Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynier, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart-
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William

Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt Hn G.J. (St. Geo.'s)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, Walford D. (Wed'bury)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Robert
 Gull, Sir Caineron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hill, Sir E. Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir. J. H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Knowles, Lees
 Lafone, Alfred

Laurie, Lieut-General
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. William E. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliot (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swan.)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Melville, Beresford V.
 Meysey-Thomson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett C. John
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
 Moon, Edward R. Pacy
 More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, Willi um George
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darling'tn)
 Pender, Sir James
 Penn, John
 Phillipotts, Captain Arthur
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt Higgins, Frederick
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. E.

Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt Hon Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt Hon Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormsk.)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M' Taggart
 Stock, Jamee Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Thornburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Ward, Hon. R. A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt Hon E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The next four Amendments are out of order. If they were accepted they would extend the scope of the Bill to colleges and schools, which Mr. Speaker has ruled are outside the scope of the Bill.

MR. LEWIS: I have an Amendment to insert the word "now" after "rent-

charge." I handed it in earlier in the evening.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member will see that the same idea is carried out in better wording by the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: On a point of Order you, Sir, have ruled that these

words would be out of order, but would I be in order if I were to move to leave out the words in the clause in order to insert words of similar import to the Amendment? Perhaps before giving your ruling you will allow me to explain that there is a clear distinction between the words "attached to" and the words "not severed from." I have studied the matter very carefully, and I myself draw a great distinction between the two phrases.

***THE CHAIRMAN:** I have had no notice of the Amendment, and I cannot know what was in the hon. Gentleman's mind.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: This Bill is based upon the recommendations of the interim Report of the Royal Commissioners, and in all their references to the subject the words they use are "not severed from a benefice." There are many cases where the tithe attached to a particular benefice is derived from a different county altogether and therefore has been severed in a way not intended in this Bill, and it would be quite in accordance with the ruling of Mr. Speaker to draw the distinction I have indicated. There is a very wide distinction indeed between the words "attached to" in the Bill and the words "not severed from" in the interim Report.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, to leave out the words 'attached to' and insert the words 'not severed from.'"—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'attached to' stand part of the clause."

MR. LABOUCHERE: I really think we ought to have the advantage of hearing the right hon. Gentleman on the point.

MR. LONG: I really did not know whether the hon. Gentleman was proceeding to move an Amendment, or whether he was arguing whether the Chairman should accept the Amendment he had in his mind. It now turns out that the speech was devoted to the Amendment he had in his mind. I confess I cannot follow the reason why the words "not severed from" should be inserted. The words "attached to" clearly convey the meaning we wish to convey—namely, that

the tithe rent-charge attached to a benefice is to be affected by the Bill. I do not know whether the words "not severed from" would extend the operations of the Bill to the tithe rent-charge not devoted to the maintenance of a benefice, but I am assured the words "attached to" will carry out the object we have in view.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomery): In some cases a tithe rent-charge may be held to be attached to a benefice, although it cannot be said to be not severed from it. The Amendment raises a legal question of considerable importance, and I think we ought to have the views of the Solicitor-General upon it.

MR. M'KENNA: The hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Stroud always uses in his Report the words "not severed from," and not the words "attached to."

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: I, too, have studied the Report from cover to cover, but I cannot find the words "attached to" in it. I do not know that they are a legal term at all, and perhaps the Solicitor-General would enlighten us as to where they came from. They are not words of art at all. It may be said that the tithe is attached to the tithe-owner, but it would be much more accurate to say that the tithe-owner is attached to the tithe. He is, indeed, very much attached to it. I have tried to ascertain whether it is perfectly clear by these words that the Bill is only intended to deal with parochial incumbents. The Second Reading speech of the right hon. Gentleman was not at all clear on this point. I desire to have it made perfectly clear that these words will not extend the benefits of this Bill to other tithe in the hand of other clerical appropriators. The tithes are divided as follows:—In the hands of clerical appropriators, £680,039; in the hands of parochial incumbents, £2,212,350; in the hands of lay appropriators, £756,205; and held by the authorities governing schools and colleges, £196,056, making in all the respectable sum of £4,040,000. It has been said by the right hon. Gentleman that it is not intended to extend the benefits of this Bill to tithe which is held by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The Committee is well aware that a large amount of tithe is held by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Mr. D. A. Thomas.

*THE CHAIRMAN: This does not seem to be relevant to the question before the Committee. The only question before the Committee is that the words "not severed from" should be inserted instead of the words "attached to."

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: I was only dealing with the question whether the Bill is intended to apply to tithe held by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That question does not arise on this Amendment; it may arise at a later stage.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: I shall ask the question in this form: If the words "attached to a benefice" are allowed to remain in the clause, does that cover tithe in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners? These are not legal words at all, and it is important to ask whether or not they will cover the tithes to the extent of £380,000, which exist now in the hands of clerical appropriators other than parochial incumbents.

*MR. PERKS: In the case of tithes in the hands of lay impro priators which have been severed from a benefice, should those lay impro priators in their generosity choose to donate those tithes back again to the benefice and thereby attach them to the benefice, would those tithes so reattached come within the scope of the Bill? If so, it is perfectly clear that if those tithes so alienated are again attached to the benefice, a large quantity of tithes will be brought within the scope of the measure which at present are not relieved from taxation by virtue of this Bill.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I do not know whether the movers and sup-

porters of this Amendment have succeeded in explaining to the House the difference between the meaning of the words "attached to" and that of the words "not severed from." We prefer the expression "attached to." Conceivably there might be cases where tithes which had been attached to a benefice had become severed therefrom, and are afterwards attached again. We intend to include all cases where the tithe is attached to a benefice. The words would not apply to tithes in the hands of clerical appropriators, as they are not attached to a benefice. As to whether the words would include the cases where tithes at present are in the hands of lay impro priators, but are afterwards attached to a benefice so that in the future the incumbent has the benefit of them, I answer that in the affirmative.

*MR. PERKS: In that case it is clear that this £87,000 will not be enough.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Unless I get a far more satisfactory answer I shall be compelled to proceed to a Division. As the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill told us he did not know, I was appealing to somebody who did know —

MR. LONG: I did not say I did not know.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: You said you did not know the distinction between "attached to" and "not severed from." There is a very wide distinction. The Solicitor-General in a vague sort of way does see that there is some distinction. Although the right hon. Gentleman may not understand or appreciate that distinction, it was appreciated by the Conservative Members of the Parliament of 1892-5, when I moved an Amendment bearing upon this very point, and they supported me.

MR. ABEL THOMAS: After the answer of the Solicitor-General we really ought to reconsider our position. A lay impropriator who has tithes now does not get any diminution of his payment of rates, and I cannot imagine any wealthy Churchman in the future presenting any clergyman with £3,000 or £4,000 or the interest of it for the purpose of carrying on his Church. He cannot be so idiotic as to do it if this Bill is passed. He will buy tithes, and present them to a benefice, and the clergyman will immediately get the benefit of half the rates. If the Solicitor-General is right this is not an act of justice in any shape or form. It cannot be justice that tithe which now pays its own rates should immediately it is presented to a benefice pay only half its rates. If it is justice the Bill should have been framed to include lay impropriators. This is a very serious point, and I shall vote for the Amendment.

SIR JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street): The discussion has shown that this Amendment is a much more important one than the House realised. I gather that any tithe, whether in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners or anyone else, if it becomes attached to a benefice, will get the benefit of this reduction of rates. See what injustice that will work. In the neighbourhood which I represent the Ecclesiastical Commissioners own a very large amount of tithe. They may attach those tithes to a benefice in any part of the country, and those parishes in Durham will be expected to make up the rates which are lost upon those tithes should those tithes have been attached to parishes outside our own county with which the communities in Durham have nothing whatever to do. It is a very important matter when you realise the enormous sums that may be given away in this shape.

*MR. MOULTON: The answer of the Solicitor-General that any tithes which

may in future be attached to a benefice will come within the scope of the Act puts quite a different complexion on this Bill. We had realised that the richest Church in the world could not support her ministers, and that while the poorer Churches were making heroic efforts to support their own this one preferred to come to the State and ask for an endowment. But we did not think it was going to inaugurate a system of cheap charity, through which by selling or giving a tithe to a benefice you would thereupon put your country under contribution to supplement your gift by something out of the public pocket. We read that in old days somebody was squeamish enough not to give unto the Lord that which cost him nothing, but our great Church has got quite above such ideas. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners own tithes which bring in about £300,000 a year, and that sum they can use for the benefit of the Church. According to this edition of the Bill, they can force the Nation to supplement that sum out of public money by something like £20,000 or £25,000, by the simple device of using those tithes in specie to increase the value of benefices instead of giving the money increment themselves. Therefore this Bill will enable the Church, at the will of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, after getting this endowment of £87,000 a year, to increase it by something like £25,000 or more per annum. But that is not the only thing. It at once makes a brisk market for the tithes that are in the hands of the lay impropriators, because if anybody wants to endow a church they will get sufficient money to buy a tithe—a taxed tithe, a rated tithe—from the lay impropriator, and that having been once presented to a benefice, half of its rates will be borne by the public, and as a consequence the gift will be increased by a compulsory contribution from the public purse. This Bill was stated to be based on justice—not on mercy, not on endowment. Will anybody explain the justice of enabling a person, because he chooses to give to the Church in one particular

form, to compel the public to join him in the gift, when if he gave it in money he could not so force them? If this is to be the meaning of the Act the plea of justice is ludicrous. It was unsound before, but under these conditions it becomes comic. I trust we shall go to a Division, in as much as no more important opportunity has been given for showing the false pretensions upon which this Bill is put forward.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: The right hon. Gentleman has estimated the cost of this Bill at £87,000. That we know is to be paid by the general taxpayer of the country, and will be deducted from the funds of the ratepayers. In view of this Amendment I ask, does that amount include these possible or even probable future additions to the existing rates to which the Bill is now applicable, because, if so, as my hon. and learned friend has said, this estimate of £87,000 does not cover the case. I think upon that ground we ought, before these words are passed, to have an assurance from the Government as to whether they intend that it is to be governed by the existing condition of the rates, or whether it means in the future to have an unlimited and speculative amount which may be added to at any time in consequence of the explanation of the Solicitor-General. I am sure the House has derived as much benefit from his explanation as from the speeches of other hon. and learned Members who are supporting this Bill, and the more we can get those distinguished Gentlemen to speak the more will this Bill be damaged in the eyes of everybody who understands its framework. I ask deliberately whether this £87,000 is to be the be-all and end-all, or whether you mean to have an elastic power to increase this imposition upon the taxpayers of the country, and this loss to the general ratepayer.

MR. LONG: The right hon. Gentleman congratulates himself and his Party upon

the fact that certain learned Gentlemen on this side of the House have spoken, because, he tells us, whenever they speak they help the case of the Opposition. That being so, I cannot help regretting that he does not rest content with the speeches we make. The right hon. Gentleman asks whether in our calculations we have estimated for any future attachment of tithes to benefices which may lead to an increase of the sum paid in respect of rates. The estimate we have made is, as is usual in such cases, one which allows a considerable margin, and the actual result may be very much less than the estimate, as was the case with the Agricultural Rating Act. In regard to the condition of future tithes the explanation given by the Solicitor-General is one with which we entirely agree. So far as this Bill is concerned, it being a temporary measure, extending over 2½ years, pending the final settlement of the larger question, our object has been to make it the law that in the case of tithe rent-charge attached to a benefice half the rates should in future be paid. That being so, whether the tithe is attached to the benefice at the immediate passing of the Bill into law, or whether it becomes attached by a subsequent act of the present proprietor, the effect and result of this Bill will be the same.

MR. AATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.): I venture to think that it could never have been the intention of the Government that it should be possible for the public funds to be forced to supplement gifts to the Church in the manner which has been described. Such a grossly extravagant proposal would amount to little short of a public scandal. I am quite sure hon. Members opposite do not realise what this means. Suppose it is conceded that the amount of rates which are attached to tithe rent-charge is excessive and that it is perfectly right that reductions in those rates should be made by the inartistic process of a grant at

large. This reading of the Bill by the Solicitor-General goes much further than that. It does not mean that the *bond fide* tithe-owner is henceforth to be relieved of his rates, but that every form of endowment which may hereafter be given to a benefice, if advantage is taken of the machinery of buying a tithe, should be supplemented by the State. I am perfectly sure that could not have been the intention of the Government, but unfortunately the President of the Board of Agriculture has committed himself to an explanation which on examination cannot possibly be adopted.

MR. WARNER: I cannot think that this is a point the Government ought to try to settle to-night, after the admission which has been made. The Church or any other worthy institution receives a great deal of honour and admiration from the country. But when that honour comes to pounds, shillings and pence, and

when those pounds shillings and pence are taken from the pockets of the poor ratepayers, that honour and admiration will not be quite so great as they would have been if the money had been obtained in other ways. The country, when they have an opportunity of speaking, will very soon decide against such proposals, and the vote next Wednesday in a certain part of London will be greatly influenced by these proceedings; other places have already spoken.

MR. LONG rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee proceeded to a Division:—Ayes, 249; Noes, 135. (Division List, No. 233.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden	Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)	Doughty, George
Allsop, Hon. George	Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)	Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Chamberlain, J. Aust'n (Worc'r)	Drucker, A.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Charrington, Spencer	Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart-
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Chelsea, Viscount	Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Baird, J. George Alexander	Clare, Octavius Leigh	Fardell, Sir T. George
Balcarres, Lord	Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)	Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.	Fergusson, Lt. Hn. Sir J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Coddington, Sir William	Finch, George H.
Banbury, Frederick George	Coghill, Douglas Harry	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Bartley, George C. T.	Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Fisher, William Hayes
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Colston, C. E. H. Athole	Fison, Frederick William
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir H. M. (Bristol)	Compton, Lord Alwyne	FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Beckett, Ernest William	Cook, F. Lucas (Lambeth)	FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Bethell, Commander	Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.	Galloway, William Johnson
Bigwood, James	Cox, Irwin Edward B.	Garfit, William
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Cranborne, Viscount	Gedge, Sydney
Bond, Edward	Cripps, Charles Alfred	Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme	Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Gibbs, Hn AGH (City of Lond.)
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)	Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)	Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Brassey, Albert	Curzon, Viscount	Gilliat, John Saunders
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh	Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Dalkeith, Earl of	Goldsworthy, Major-General
Bullard, Sir Harry	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Butcher, John George	Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Carlile, William Walter	Denny, Colonel	Goschen, Rt. Hn G. J. (St. George's)
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-	Goulding, Edward Alfred
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
	Dorington, Sir John Edward	

Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'ry)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
 Hozier, Hon. J. H. Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Knowles, Lees
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. William E. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'nsea)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverp'l)

Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Milbank, Sir Powlett C. John
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Montagu, Hon. J. S. (Hants.)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. S.
 Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
 Penn, John
 Phillips, Captain Arthur
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs., Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles

Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thompson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John H. Dudley
 Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sibbettom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Chas. Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-Wharton, Rt. Hon. Jno. Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wynham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Wm. (Newc.-und.-Lyme)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carnichael, Sir T. D. Gibson
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston

Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Crilly, Daniel
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan-(Card'g'n)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evans, Sir F. H. (South' ton)
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)

Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Gurdon, Sir William B.
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Ed.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, David B. (Swansea)
 Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)

Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 McDermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)

Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George W. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Perks, Robert Williams
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, J. H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)

Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Strachey, Edward
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Woodhouse, Sir F. (Huddersf'd)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur.

Question put accordingly, "That the words 'attached to' stand part of the clause." The Committee divided :—Ayes, 243; Noes, 134. (Division List, No. 234.)

AYES.

Allhusen, A. Henry Eden
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold-Förster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitz Roy
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonnor, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Butcher, John George
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)

Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hn. T. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colston, C. E. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
 Digby, J. K. D. Wingfield.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas

Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir K. Penrose-
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. AGH (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G.J. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald

Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampst'd)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Kt Hon Sir John H
 Kenyon-Slayney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Knowles, Lees
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lecky, Rt Hon William Edw. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)

M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Milbank, Sir P. C. John
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Pease, Herbt. Pike (Darlington)
 Penn, John
 Phillipotts, Captain Arthur
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matt. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, H. (Hackney)

Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. E. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs)
 Stewart, Sir M. J. M' Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C.E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
 Williams, J. Powell (Birmg.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-Wynndham, George
 Wynndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, W. (Newc-under-Lyme)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Crilly, Daniel
 Dalziel, James Henry

Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
 Evans, Sir F. H. (South' ton)
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Gurdon, Sir William B.
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)

Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir Wilfred (Cumb.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 M'Dermott, Patrick

M'Ewan, William
M'Ghee, Richard
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
Mendl, Sigismund F.
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morley, Chas. (Breckonshire)
Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
Palmer, Geo. Wm. (Reading)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.

Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Perks, Robert William
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Randell, David
Reckitt, Harold James
Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley

Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Jno. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
Wilson, H. J. (Yorks, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse, Sir JT (Huddersf'd)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. M'Arthur.

It being after midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) [SALARIES, &c.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion moved and Question proposed—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment out of moneys to be provided by Parliament of a salary not exceeding £1,200, together with a residential allowance not exceeding £150, to the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the salaries and remuneration to the secretary, assistant-secretaries, inspectors, officers, and servants of the Department, and of all expenses incurred by the Department, in pursuance of any Act of the present session for establishing a Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction in Ireland." — (Mr. Gerald Balfour.)

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): As there is great difference of opinion in reference to the method by which the £78,000 in this Bill is to be handed over to the new Department, I should like to know whether the Resolution as worded will bar us from discussing in Committee whether that £78,000 should be derived from direct grant or by the roundabout way of taking over the spirit money.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Resolution does not refer to the £78,000 at all, it only applies to the salaries. There is no additional charge on the Votes in respect of the £78,000.

MR. DILLON: I understand it will not debar us from discussing that question then. I was afraid that if the Resolution was passed the point might be taken against us on that question. No doubt it would throw no additional charge ultimately on the Exchequer if the grant were made direct, as many of us would prefer, but it might technically be held to throw an additional charge on the Exchequer.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I do not know what ruling the Chairman might make on the subject, but the Resolution before the House makes no reference to the £78,000, therefore I think it would not have any effect on the decision of the Chairman.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

METROPOLIS MANAGEMENT ACTS AMENDMENT (BYE-LAWS) BILL [H.L.]

As amended, considered; read a third time, and passed, with Amendments.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before One of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 11th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with :

WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL.**GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.****CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY BILL.****FISHGUARD AND ROSSLARE RAILWAYS AND HARBOURS BILL.****MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.**

Committee to meet on Thursday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition to the Bristol Order having been withdrawn ; the Orders made on 30th June and Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed for Thursday next.

REDDITCH GAS BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

BRADFORD TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The Orders made on Tuesday last discharged, and Bill committed.

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HARROW AND UXBRIDGE RAILWAY BILL.**WARRINGTON CORPORATION BILL.****NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.**

Moved that the Order made on the 9th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday, the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be read 2^a ; agreed to. Bills read 2^a accordingly, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

BIRMINGHAM CORPORATION BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments ; further Amendments made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

MIDLAND AND SOUTH-WESTERN JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL.**LINCOLN AND EAST COAST RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL.****WOKING WATER AND GAS BILL.****LOWESTOFT PROMENADE PIER BILL.**

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL.**MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.**

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.

House to be in Committee on Thursday next.

MILITARY LANDS PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order) : Bill reported without Amendment : Then Standing Orders Nos. XXXIX. and XLV. considered (according to Order), and dispensed with : Bill read 3^a, and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 4) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order) : Bill reported without Amendment : Standing Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 9) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order): Amendments made: Standing Committee negatived: The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 17) BILL.

Moved that the Order of the 9th March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday, the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to. Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL.**

Moved that the Order of the 9th March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday, the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2^a; agreed to. Bills read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14) BILL.

Moved, That the Order of the 9th March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Report from the Committee of Selection that the five Lords appointed a Select Committee on the Leeds Corporation Bill do form the Select Committee for the consideration of the London County Council (General Powers) Bill; read, and agreed to; all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners

praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bill.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.**ARMY (VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF CORPS).**

Draft efficiency certificate for the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE.

Report of the Governors for the year ended 31st December, 1898; with accounts.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed report, for the year 1898.

TRADE REPORTS.

Miscellaneous Series, No. 507. Coal mining in the State of Illinois, for the year 1898.

SIERRA LEONE.

Report by Her Majesty's Commissioner and correspondence on the subject of the insurrection in the Sierra Leone Protectorate, 1898.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.

Account of receipts under the Act, and payments under Section 25 thereof, during the year ended 31st March, 1899.

CONCILIATION (TRADE DISPUTES) ACT, 1896.

Second Report of the Board of Trade of proceedings under the Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Act, 1896.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITIONS.**SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS (ENGLAND AND IRELAND) BILL.**

Petition in favour of; of Meeting of Women in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westmister; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

Report from the Committee of Selection for the Standing Committee, that the Committee have added the Lord Brampton to the Standing Committee; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

METROPOLIS MANAGEMENT ACTS AMENDMENT (BYE-LAWS) BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments to be printed. (No. 162.)

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE AT KHARTOUM BILL [H.L.]

A Bill to give powers to the Executive Committee of the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum to invest trust funds in certain securities—was presented by the Lord Chancellor; read 1st; and to be printed. (No. 163.)

QUESTIONS.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Seeing the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies in his place, I wish to ask him whether he can give to the House any information with regard to the new proposals of the Government of the South African Republic in relation to the elective franchise of that country.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The EARL of SELBORNE): My Lords, in answering the question of the noble Earl, perhaps your Lordships will allow me to make a short statement. At the Conference at Bloemfontein proposals were made by Sir Alfred Milner and President Kruger respectively as to the enfranchisement of aliens in the South African Republic. Sir Alfred Milner regarded the President's proposals as altogether inadequate to meet the case, and the Conference broke up. Since the Conference there have been private and unofficial discussions between the Government of the South African Republic and Mr. Hofmeyr, Mr. Herholdt, one of the Cape Ministers, and Mr. Fischer, a member of the Executive of the Orange Free State, which have resulted in new franchise proposals being submitted by President Kruger to the

First Volksraad of the South African Republic. Sir Alfred Milner's proposals were, briefly, franchise after five years, retrospective. Under the President's original proposals, not a single Uitlander would get the franchise immediately. Those who came in before 1890 would get it in two and a half years. Others already resident for two years would have to wait five years longer. Those coming in in the future would have to wait seven and a half years. All would have to undergo the objectionable naturalisation period. Under the latest proposals the naturalisation period is removed. Those who came in before 1890 get the franchise at once, and those who came in in 1890 and subsequent years get it as soon as they have completed nine years' residence. There will thus be a small immediate enfranchisement of aliens who are already resident in the country, and additions will be made each year until five years from the passing of the Act, when all aliens who have been seven years in the country at the time and who possess the conditions may be enfranchised. Newcomers will be entitled to the franchise seven years after they have given written notice of their desire to become burghers of the State. The number of members allotted to the Goldfields will be increased by four. In the absence of fuller information it is impossible to be absolutely certain of the practical effect of the whole scheme. So far as we are able to judge from the information before us, the new scheme will have no immediate effect on the representation in the First Volksraad of the alien population; it is not certain that they could carry any of the seats allotted to the Rand until a much later period. That is all the information that is at present in our possession.

EARL SPENCER: May I ask the noble Lord when he expects to get information which will enable him to understand the proposals clearly?

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: We have asked for information on definite points; but in the absence of any absolutely official communication on the subject it is not always certain that every version submitted to us is inclusive of all the conditions. All I have to say is that we are taking all the steps we can to obtain the most accurate information.

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS (ENGLAND AND IRELAND) BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

***THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER:** My Lords, I have to move the Second Reading of a Bill for giving seats to shop assistants, a Bill promoted by the Early Closing Association, of which Sir John Lubbock is the President, and it is identical with the Bill that was introduced and thrown out from your Lordships' House earlier in the session. After having passed the ordeal of the other House, where it met not only with no opposition, but with universal sympathy, the poor innocent bantling was brought into your Lordships' House, where it received very short shrift, and what I may call its second birth was destroyed with contempt by Lord Shand, and it was scorched and withered away under the breath of the displeasure of the noble Marquess the Prime Minister. Both these Bills have passed the other House without opposition and with cordial approval. I therefore now take up the challenge of the noble Lords, and I must endeavour to show that the Bill for Scotland, which has been thrown out, is fit for England and Ireland, and that this Bill is fit for Scotland also. The noble Lord (Lord Shand) gave two reasons for throwing out the Bill—one, that if it was fit for Scotland it should be fit for England and Ireland, and that the subject-matter was too trivial to be considered by your Lordships' House. As at present public opinion is not in favour of the admission of women to the legislative field, it behoves us all the more to consider questions which vitally affect them. We hold that this measure does vitally affect them, ameliorating as it proposes to do the comfort and health of thousands of working women. Without perpetrating any pun, the question is in every sense of the word of long-standing. It is no new movement. Associations were formed more than twenty years ago for creating public opinion in its favour. There is a great amount of literature bearing upon the question, and a large amount of medical opinion showing that it is a matter that is in want of legislation. I have a letter from the Vicar of St. Paul's, Kilburn, who expresses an

earnest hope that your Lordships will pass the Bill, and says that in the course of ten years' experience in different parts of London, he has come across cases in which young girls have to undergo long hours of enforced sentry duty which would provoke a mutiny if imposed upon soldiers of the Line. Only the other day a meeting was held in Oxford, the Master of Balliol in the chair. The room was crowded, and a resolution was passed to the following effect :

" Seeing the evils of standing during protracted periods, which entail special disabilities and suffering upon girls and women and their offspring, this meeting regrets the action of the House of Lords in regard to the Shop-Assistants' Seats Bill, 1899, and desires to impress upon them the urgency of this important measure."

I will, without wearying the House, proceed at once to quote the evidence of Miss Margaret Irwin, in a report for the National Federal Council of Scotland, and quoted by the Commissioners of Labour of 1892 and 1893 :

" My attention has been directed by several medical men of standing and experience, and also by numerous grave complaints from the women assistants themselves, to two causes which, in addition to long hours and close confinement, operate against the health and comfort of women employed in shops. These are—want of seats, and the absence of, or defective, sanitary provisions.

" The first defect is more common in large shops, where a large number of assistants are employed, and there is abundant evidence to prove that the health of the women workers has sustained serious and, sometimes, fatal injury from the terrible strain involved by being kept standing on their feet throughout the long, weary day they are on duty. Both the medical men and the workers themselves have been unanimous in strongly urging the compulsory provision of seats in one form or another. Numerous cases have been quoted of workers suffering grave injury to their health from the present system, and there is a strong feeling that it should be abolished. As has been more than once said to me, 'If they would only allow us a ledge to rest upon for a minute or two we would be thankful even for that.'

" Dr. Service, Dr. Edmistoun, and other medical men speak very strongly on the point, and in a formal statement made by them, and embodied in my official Report to the Royal Commission on Labour, they enumerate the serious complications which are entailed by long hours, close confinement, want of regular and sufficient time for meals, bad air, want of seats, and absence of sanitary provisions.

" The evil results of these are also frequently traceable in the children of women who have been employed as shop-assistants. Dr. Service

says: 'Mothers with children of from 1 to 10 or 12 years of age frequently come to us wondering why their children are so delicate. Neither of the parents, nor any of their forbears, are, or were delicate, and they cannot see why their children should be so. But on inquiring, it is found that the mothers worked either in shops, mills, or warehouses under conditions not suitable to sound health; and debility, slight and unnoticed, takes hold of the constitution, and it is only after some years of married life that the mischief shows itself in mother and children.'

"An important feature to be taken into account in considering the long hours worked is the high temperature and vitiated atmosphere in many of the shops, especially after the gas is lit. I have found a temperature of 75 deg. and 80 deg. Fahr. registered on my thermometer on visiting some of these shops, with 40 deg. in the outside air.

"Witness No. 503 is married, and keeps a newspaper shop of her own, which is open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. or 12 midnight. Witness stated she would be very glad to close earlier if the other shops did the same. In some of these shops the girls are kept on duty continuously, this is more especially the case where one girl only is employed. The average wage is 10s. per week. In scarcely any of these shops in this district is lavatory accommodation provided. Witness said she knew of drapery shops where the hours are from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and in some cases to 10 p.m., while they are kept open till 11 p.m. and 12 midnight on Saturdays. In these shops the girls are allowed half an hour off for breakfast, and one hour for dinner. Total hours worked per week 82 and 89 (not including meal hours). No seats are provided, and there is no sanitary accommodation. Witness stated that there are frequent cases of girls completely breaking down in health in these shops."

The members of that Labour Commission report that there is abundant evidence to prove that most serious results to health have been brought about. Seats are seldom provided ; they were found in four out of thirty-three of the London shops at which information was obtained, and in only three in sixty-three in the provinces. The workers who were questioned in Scotland were, without exception, in favour of the compulsory provision of seats, and they regarded the proposal that they might retire to other rooms as impracticable ; even where there was plenty of room there were no seats. This holds good in the four or five principal cities of Scotland, from which a general cry arises for legislation. This, my Lords, shows that the case can hardly be called trivial, and to a certain extent—to a considerable extent I should say—it meets the adverse opinion of the noble Lords. We find that there is a general admission on the part of the trade in favour of the provision of

seats, but in by far the majority of the cases that excellent profession of faith stops there, and the main reason for the non-adoption of the system appears to be the fear of offending customers. They suppose that ladies coming in to do their shopping would be struck with horror at the sight of any shopwoman sitting down, even though she might rise to serve the customer. I think those must be queer customers who can be affected by so slight a so-called offence. There are queer customers all the world over, but I certainly think that their prejudices and fancies ought not to weigh in the scale for one moment against the evil which the present system entails, and one cannot but think that after a time the customers would get used to the custom. I think there can be no doubt that public opinion has had considerable influence in certain localities, certainly in the larger establishments in the West End of London where accommodation, so far as seats are concerned, is provided, and every care is taken of the workers. But we have evidence to show that this care and this consideration do not hold good in the vast majority of shops in the kingdom. We have evidence to show that the mechanical difficulty can easily be overcome. Mr. Ely, of Peckham, a draper who employs forty girls, has adopted a turning seat under the counter, which he assures us, from the experience of six years, answers admirably well, and this system has, we find, been adopted in other shops with marked success. The hours in the East End of London as a rule are much longer than in the West of London, and the objection in the former case is that seats would be impossible because the custom comes in great rushes at late hours, and therefore that it would be impossible to put them up. One cannot but believe that the convenience of seats might easily be availed of at the time when business is more slack and before the rush of the flood. In passing, my Lords, I would like to refer to those countries where by law seats have been provided. This is the case in New Zealand, in Victoria, Australia, in the United States in Connecticut, in Pennsylvania, in Michigan, in Ohio, and in New York, and in Canada in the province of Ontario. It is curious that the Act of 1881 to provide seats in New York was evaded for fourteen years on account of there being no provision for

inspection. A Legislative Committee reported in 1895 in favour of inspection, and inspection was accordingly by law established. They used these words :

"The importance of providing proper seats, and promoting their use at reasonable times, cannot be overestimated."

They number one seat to three assistants behind the counter, and now, in towns of over 3,000 assistants, the law is enforced. I am sorry to say that the New York City Council has been in the hands of the Tammany Hall Ring. The President of the Board of Health, who is responsible for the failure to appoint special inspectors, was, it is alleged, one of the very shopkeepers who for fourteen years had defied the law of 1881 by refusing to place seats in his shop. The consequence of this is that the inspection is not carried out. In Ontario Clause 8 of the Act empowers that :

"The occupier of any shop in which females are employed shall all the times provide, and keep therein, a sufficient and suitable seat or chair for the use of every such female, and shall permit her to use such chair or seat when not necessarily engaged in the work or duty for which she is employed in such shop."

The inspector states that :

"The injury to the health of females employed in workshops, factories, and mercantile establishments, in consequence of their being compelled to be constantly on their feet, is undeniable. In many cases a female can perform her duties just as well sitting on a chair, stool, or bench, as she can standing. To require her to become unnecessarily exhausted, to simply gratify a silly whim, looks too much like tyranny."

The inspector goes on to say :

"I have visited some of the mercantile establishments quite frequently in order to see that the stools, when once provided, are kept in locations available for use by the saleswomen. I have heard no complaint that the privilege has been abused, or that the results have been hurtful in any way to the firm by which it was granted."

The Bill whose Second Reading I have to propose prescribes that employers shall provide seats behind the counter, but there is some objection to giving inspectors undue authority. I shall propose in Committee to strike out the words in line 10, "or in such other place as an inspector under this Act may direct." The Bill proposes one seat for every two assistants. We intend to alter that, and make it read

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that there shall be one seat to every three instead of two. An Amendment will be moved by Lord Ribblesdale extending this English and Irish Act to Scotland. It is purposely elastic; we do not say what form the seat should take, but we leave that to the good sense of the shop-people. We hold, my Lords, that in this Bill there is no departure from principle. The question concerned is the health of the community, in which the law has constantly intervened with general benefit. A prominent Member of the Government, a few years ago, in a speech delivered in the Town Hall at Birmingham, in emphatic and strong language, which is habitual to him, said :

"I say that wherever the health and the happiness of the whole community is at stake, I am prepared to interfere even with that sacred thing, adult male labour. And remember that it is not a new thing. Whenever any proposal of this kind is brought forward we always have the old cry which was brought forward against the Factory Acts. The Factory Acts, in a hundred different ways, interfere with the arrangements between employers and employed, even where the employed are adult males. The same objection applies to the Truck Acts, to the Acts for regulating merchant shipping, and to a hundred different Acts of Parliament, and especially to the whole of those Acts which deal with Irish land legislation. Well, if it be right in these cases, for the benefit of the great majority, to interfere with the absolute liberty of adult males, surely we have got a very strong case for making another exception in the case of the shopkeepers."

Without any accumulation of evidence or further inquiry, we hold it to be a sufficient proof of the necessity for legislation when, as in this case, voluntary effort has signally failed. Who can doubt that the prolonged hours during which the female assistants are not allowed to sit down cannot but be productive of injury to the comfort and to the health of thousands of young women, many eventually to become mothers, and, therefore, injurious to the health and vigour of the nation ? This is a step in the direction of the prevention of cruelty to women, and as such I beg to commend the Bill to the House.

Moved—

"That the Bill be read 2d."—(*The Duke of Westminster.*)

LORD SHAND: My Lords, as the noble Duke has mentioned that on the former occasion when a Bill on this sub-

ject was before your Lordships I ventured to move its rejection, you will not be surprised that I feel it my duty to take the same course upon the present occasion. It is true that the former Bill was made applicable to Scotland only, and that I objected to the invidious distinction which was then drawn between Scotland and the rest of the Empire. I indicated that I regarded the Bill as having been sent up in the nature of a balloon, to see how the wind blew, in view of future legislation of the same character applicable to the whole of the United Kingdom. On that occasion your Lordships unanimously decided that the Bill should be rejected, but practically it was withdrawn with the consent of the House. The measure now before your Lordships is really word for word the same, and the objections which applied to the principle of the former Bill apply to the principle of this Bill. I had expected that the noble Duke would have given some explanation as to why this Bill was allowed to go through the House of Commons without a word being said in its favour, especially in view of the fact that a similar Bill applying to Scotland was rejected in this House. In my opinion, it was due to this House, the former Bill having been presented, discussed, and rejected in this House, that something should have been said by those who were proposing the present Bill, which is identical in terms with the one which was thrown out by this House a few weeks ago. I ventured to express the hope, when I addressed your Lordships on the first measure, that I should not be regarded as wanting in sympathy with shop assistants in moving the rejection of the measure, for during the eighteen years that I had the honour of occupying the position of a judge of the Supreme Court in Edinburgh I spent much of my time and energy in advancing the interests of the very class of people who will be affected by this Bill. I was president of the first mechanics' institute founded in the United Kingdom, a school attended by a great number of people of both sexes and of all classes, and I had the satisfaction, on retiring from my position as president, of leaving 3,300 students, as against 300 when I assumed the presidency. I instance the fact that many thousands of the class for whom this legislation is proposed are reaping the benefit of the education given in that

institute, as showing that I am not out of sympathy with the object of this Bill, although I am entirely out of sympathy with the methods by which it is proposed to be carried out. I believe it is quite true, as has been stated by the noble Duke, that an evil does exist in the direction which he has described. I believe from my heart that it is a very bad thing in many cases that young women should be kept standing for long hours without the means of sitting down. But, on the other hand, I think this class of legislation, appropriately called "grandmotherly legislation," will, if adopted, prove very injurious in the future. The figure of the thin edge of the wedge has been so often used that I will change it, and say that, if you allow a small stream of this kind to run quietly past, you will in a short time have a torrent of measures of the same class relating to servants of every kind, and encroaching upon social, commercial, and even domestic life. It has been the pride of this nation that we have been able to do without this kind of legislation hitherto. I hope the noble Duke, and those who think with him, will give me, and those who think with me, credit for full sympathy with shop-assistants, but, still, I think benevolence pursued without proper judgment, however good its objects may be, or upon methods which are improper, will, like indiscriminate charity, prove extremely mischievous in the result. On that ground, sympathising entirely with the object of the Bill, I would suggest that the measure ought to be rejected. The class of legislation of which this is an instance, is one of which I think we have had too much lately. It involves an unnecessary and mischievous interference with people in the conduct of their business, and that liberty of contract which is a branch of the great privilege of liberty of action. This is an attempt to introduce legislative control in the ordinary affairs of life—commercial, social, and private. It appears to me to be a question of much larger importance than that of providing seats for shop-assistants, and my objection to it, as before, is that it is a matter which should be left to voluntary effort, which I am sure would be successful in finding a remedy for the evil. I would further press upon the House that, if such a Bill as this is passed, it will be impossible to forecast the end to which the extension of

the principle may lead. I have conceded that something should be done. I would suggest, as a remedy, that ladies should intimate at the various shops where they find there is a want of consideration to the comfort and health of the shop assistants that they will cease to deal at those shops unless the evil is remedied. The result will be that they will, by voluntary effort, secure what you are asking for in this Bill. I find in the *Lancet*, a copy of which was sent to me by the Association of which the Duke of Westminster is patron, and of which Sir John Lubbock is president, a strong condemnation of the "no seats" rule. The *Lancet* proceeds :—

"Can nothing be done to stop this—as we once called it, without the least exaggeration or sensationalism—'cruelty to women'? The women who are most concerned dare not complain for fear of losing their situations. What, then, is the remedy? The publication of our list was productive of good results, but the real prevention of this abuse of labour rests almost entirely with the women who deal with the firms who are cruel to their employees. There are many women, we know, who, alas! have no sympathy with other members of their sex, and who, for the sake of merely passing an idle hour, compel shop-girls to show them article after article, while at the same time they know that their purchase will ultimately be a small one or even nothing. To these we do not appeal, but leave them to be dealt with by the humane, and larger, majority of their sex. To the true woman—the woman with feelings for her sisters, the woman of love and sympathy, the true woman in every sense of the word—we appeal for help in this matter. If such women would abstain from purchasing at shops where they see that employees are compelled to work from morning till night without permission to rest from their labours, even when opportunity occurs, we should soon see the end of a practice which ruins the health and shortens the lives of our shop-girls."

I could not better express what I regard as the remedy for the evil of which the noble Duke complains. I find in the Report which the Early Closing Association have issued a long list of firms who immediately acceded to the wish of the Association with regard to the provision of seats. In all 296 business houses, when applied to to provide seats for their assistants, complied with the request, which shows that by such voluntary work, and by the assistance of ladies themselves, the lot of the shop assistant can be improved without infringing on the principle of legislating on matters of this kind, which should be left to the action of those who undoubtedly have

sympathy in such matters. I cannot for the life of me suppose that the moment a man becomes a draper or warehouseman he loses all human sympathy and consideration, and is not prepared to look to the benefit of his employees and do his best for them. For the last eight or nine years an association of drapers and others have been by voluntary effort bringing about what Parliament is now asked to do by legislation. The association to which I refer is known as the Voluntary Early Closing Association. They have held meetings every year, and have done a very great deal in this direction. At the last annual meeting the chairman referred to the question why the association came into existence. The reply was that he and Mr. Bryce Grant were originally on the board of the parent institution, and at that time the association was carrying on good work, but when they adopted the policy of legislation to compulsorily close early, he and his friend were obliged to retire from the board, and this also caused the secession of many old members. Hence the "Voluntary" Association was formed, and the success it had met with bore evidence to the fact that the principles of the association were more in accordance with the opinions of the trading classes generally. Another gentleman who spoke at the meeting, said he had it on the authority of Sir John Lubbock that next session strenuous efforts would be made to pass the Early Closing Bill, but that, he said, was a Bill they could not regard with favour. They did not want to be treated as a parcel of children, but they did want, he added, to lighten the hours of their employees, and that was the object of their association. He believed they were doing a great deal of good in that respect, and especially in those districts where there was most need for it. If by voluntary effort they could bring about early closing they need not, he thought, trouble about the compulsory Bill—a Bill which he believed could easily be rendered inoperative, and which would not recommend itself to the tradesmen of London. I would remind your Lordships that this association is in active work now, and it appears to me that this is the proper manner in which we should expect an evil of this kind to be met. It strikes me that it must be an extremely disagreeable thing for a tradesman to find inspectors coming in and picking holes here and there in his management. I admit

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that in factories, where there is danger to life, or where noxious gases are used, it may be right for Parliament to interfere and to insist that every precaution is taken; but to say that as to the details of a man's business there is to be legislation of this kind appears to me to be a very extravagant proposal. For that reason I have ventured to again address your Lordships upon this question. There is another matter on which I should like to say a few words. I refer to the difficulties which are to be expected from an endeavour to carry out the proposals contained in this Bill. If a measure of this kind is passed you will, in my opinion, create much more hostility between employer and employed than exists now. Employers will say that if the Government are going to compel them to do this and that they will stop at the point which the Government have reached, and, instead of evincing a desire to improve the position of their employees, there will be a reluctance to do anything. But there is another point which the House would do well to consider. In a very able letter to *The Times*, written by a lady who takes very great interest in women's work, the writer expresses the opinion that if you tighten the restrictions that apply to women in business the result will be that you will crush a great many of them out altogether. I believe that has been the result of the Employers' Liability Bill. For instance, many masters since the passing of that Act have taken care that they will only have healthy, strong men in their employ. If you push this class of legislation into small details, as proposed in this Bill, you will, in the first place, destroy the sympathy of employers with their workpeople, and, in the second place, bring about the dismissal of a number of female shop assistants who are now employed. The Bill bristles with penalties. From the present Bill the following provision, which appeared in the Seats for Shop Assistants (Scotland) Bill, has been judiciously dropped out, but if this Bill passes it will no doubt come up in the course of next year, namely:

"A female employed as aforesaid shall not be prevented by regulation or otherwise from being seated when not actually engaged in the course of her employment, and shall not be dismissed, nor have her wages reduced, on the ground that she has used the sitting accommodation provided for her, unless it is found she has used it unreasonably often or for an unreasonably long time on any day."

The Bill then provided that:

"Every female employed as aforesaid shall be allowed reasonable intervals during which she may use the sitting accommodation required by this Act. Any person failing to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be liable in a penalty of not more than £3 from the first offence, and for a second or subsequent offence not less than £1."

I would ask how could anyone sit judiciously and decide a question as to whether a female employed had been allowed reasonable intervals during which she might use the sitting accommodation required by this Act, or determine whether her dismissal has been due to the fact that she had used the sitting accommodation provided for her unreasonably often or for an unreasonably long time on any day? It was felt that provisions of this kind were necessary to make the Bill of the slightest effect, and when these provisions are examined it is at once seen that they are ludicrous.

*THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER: Being ludicrous, they were very properly taken out of the Bill.

LORD SHAND: If the noble Lord will allow me to say so, he leaves the Bill without the power of compelling shopkeepers to give their assistants the benefit of the seat. So long as they provide the seats they will have complied with the Act. There is another Bill before Parliament at the present moment entitled, "A Bill to Amend the Law relating to Shops," in which the very clauses that I have now referred to are included with a number of other stringent regulations of a similar kind. It appears to me that if this Bill should pass the result will be a flood of Bills on exactly the same lines. Indeed, it is clear that such legislation cannot stop at shops. We shall be called upon to consider the case of domestic servants. There are many houses in which the accommodation provided for servants may be said to be injurious to health. They are in some cases supplied with most inferior food, and deprived of holidays; and the principle of this Bill, when once it is sanctioned, must extend to every branch of domestic life. It is impossible to draw distinctions. In conclusion, I would remind the House that we decided the other day precisely the point which is now before us, and I should very much regret if the House were to stultify itself.

by going back upon its unanimous decision of only a few weeks ago. As there are other noble Lords who will, no doubt, take a different view of the matter, I hope they will confine themselves to what I venture to say is the only issue before us, namely, by what method can an evil of this kind be best cured. I grant there is a mischief which ought to be remedied. I admit that it is an extremely bad thing for girls to have to stand in these places for a long period, and it may be injurious to their health; but this is a class of legislation which has not prevailed hitherto in this country to any extent, and I hope it never will prevail. I therefore move the rejection of the Bill.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHester: My Lords, I do not think it was necessary for the noble and learned Lord who has just spoken to explain to the House that the motives which have actuated him and others who have moved with him in this matter are of the highest possible character. No one who is acquainted with the excellent work which the noble and learned Lord was able to do north of the Tweed will doubt what his sympathies are in matters of this kind, and how much he would desire to alleviate the hardships of shop assistants. I would go very far with the noble and learned Lord in objecting to over-legislation in matters which can be described as sentimental grievances. In this case, however, the testimony of medical men is overwhelming in favour of the absolute need of something being done to better the conditions under which the enormous number of shop assistants labour. Of course, we all admit that there are in every class of society, and, above all, among those whose manual labour is hardest, a great number of workers who are suffering from what would seem to us intolerable wrongs or grievances, which we are powerless by legislation to meet. The condition of the home seamstress, the trials and troubles of some classes of domestic servants in small and over-pressed establishments, and the condition of the shop assistant's life in other departments than that of which we are speaking to-night, are all things which we admit to be practical difficulties, but difficulties which we feel ourselves perfectly unable to attempt to meet by actual legislation. We must trust to other agencies in those

matters. What we who advocate this Bill have got to show is that we are not dealing now with something that is vague, sentimental, or irremediable. We are dealing with a specific evil which is condemned by the indisputable authority of medical men, by arguments that are unanswerable, and for the remedy of which no kind of inquisitorial inspection of shops is required. The arguments which have been advanced against this Bill were the identical arguments that were urged years ago against the Factory Acts. Had these arguments been allowed to prevail then we should now have had boys working in coal mines, and other things which, thank God, were years ago swept away. The class whose lot this Bill will ameliorate are a far larger class probably than any one of the classes which were affected by any of the Factory Acts. The number of female assistants in shops is legion, and, while I admit that many of them have no grievances at all, there are tens of thousands of them in regard to whom the evil is getting worse, and the House will not be justified in trusting to kindness and humane feelings for an improvement in their position. Something much stronger is needed. The method which the noble and learned Lord suggested should be employed to bring about the result we desire would resolve itself into a system of boycott. We were, he said, to visit shops, find out how many assistants were employed there, and the conditions under which they were employed. I contend that that would be a kind of inquisitorial inspection far worse than that which would take place under this Bill. Already in a large number of drapery shops in London and throughout the provinces seats are provided, and what we who support this Bill desire is that what has been found practicable in many shops should, under the operation of the law, become the rule in all establishments. When the former Bill was before your Lordships' House the noble Marquess at the head of the Government said :

"In such matters as sitting down and standing up we have hitherto trusted to human instincts, leaving people to manage it for themselves."

That is exactly what the Bill proposes. It proposes to allow the shop assistants to stand up or sit down as they please. At present we cannot trust to their instinct, for if they

Lord Shand.

desire to sit down they cannot do so. On a matter of this kind, most of us, I suppose all of us, speak at second hand—I mean that our practical knowledge of the details is exceedingly small. May I say, without egotism, that I have tried to reduce that ignorance on my part to a minimum? I have not only tried to read as much that has been written on the subject as I could, but I have interviewed a number of employers and employed, and also a number of those who have now ceased to be assistants, and whose testimony is therefore specially important when we are dealing with this matter. During the past few weeks I have made surprise visits to several drapery establishments in different parts of London, and with much profit to myself, and a good deal of innocent amusement to others, I have gone behind counters and held investigations while sales were going on. The result of these experiences is to make it absolutely clear to my mind that specific legislation is needed to ameliorate the conditions under which shop assistants labour. In nearly all the best managed and most successful shops in London seats are provided for the assistants. The conditions of life have been made easier in those shops, the hours have been decreased, and, although there is a conflict of evidence on this point, the wages are in many places much better than they were years ago. If we could trust to this example permeating downwards to the smaller shops I should feel that there was no need for legislation, but we cannot trust to anything of the kind. There is no business in which the division line is more clearly marked between the upper and the lower class of shops than the drapery business, and in the second class shops things are getting worse instead of improving. Wages, instead of rising, have fallen 25 per cent. in those shops during the last ten or fifteen years, and the hours of employment have got longer. Legislation is not possible on these points, but it is possible on the definite question of seats, and I therefore hope your Lordships will give the Bill a Second Reading. I feel for the kind-hearted employer who has for years done all he possibly could to make the lot of his female assistants as easy and as comfortable as possible, and who may regard this Bill as directed against him as well as against others. I can quite understand

his objection to the Bill, but I am bound to say that in many interviews I have had with employers I have not found one who did not admit that there were a large number of others in the trade who did need some compulsion of this kind, and that perhaps, after all, he ought to submit to the inconvenience in order that those who need compulsion might be made to provide seats for their assistants. I think too much has been made of the inspection difficulty. There are at this moment, in every large shop, occasional visits of an inspector under the Shop-Hours and other Acts, and the inspection in those cases is of a much more inquisitorial character than would be the case under the Bill. The primary objection to this Bill is that the provision of seats will bring about a lack of smartness in the shops, and that customers will not go in if they see some of the assistants sitting down. Experience has proved that this is not the case, for some of the most successful and some of the smartest shops in London are doing now all that we ask them to do in this Bill. I paid a surprise visit to a shop in the East End of London where eighty girls were employed, and a fourth of them were at the time I entered sitting down. I am not a judge as to the exact attribute of smartness in a shop of this kind, but if it can be judged by the number of persons present, and the progress of a steady business, the provision of seats was not a drawback in this direction. The objection that if these restrictions are placed upon the employment of women men will be employed in their places is, if I may say so with all respect, mere moonshine. An examination of the wage table is sufficient to destroy this theory. There are many trades in England in which restrictions have been placed on women's labour, which have not been placed upon men. Can any noble Lord mention a case in which that has resulted in women being replaced by men? I refer specially to the textile trades in Lancashire. The ordinary custom in Lancashire has been to pay men and women the same rate of wages, and, instead of women, whose hours are restricted, being driven out, and men, whose hours are not restricted, being taken on, women are said to be ousting men from a great many of the textile factories in Lancashire. That is an example which I would ask those to take to heart who think that women will

be replaced by men if this Bill is carried. It is a singular fact that not a single Member of the House of Commons has opposed these Bills. That shows what is the popular wish, and I hope your Lordships will give effect to it. I saw in the public prints that a whip was issued yesterday to vote against this Bill, and in which this question was spoken of as a paltry detail of shop management. I doubt whether those who drew up that document would consider it a paltry detail if they had to undergo the hardships which this Bill was framed to alleviate, or had to remain standing during the whole of this Debate.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The MARQUESS of SALISBURY) : My Lords, when the Scotch Bill was before this House, I endeavoured to point out that one of the most serious objections to it was that, entirely without inquiry, we were entering upon a novel field of legislation, and dealing with matters with respect to which we really had no knowledge. That same feeling, I confess, presses principally upon me now. I am not prepared to lay down categorically any propositions in contradiction to those that have been so eloquently expressed by the right rev. Prelate, but I say that we have had no inquiry upon the subject ; that the evidence that he gives us is his own evidence, or evidence, it may be, of distinguished men, but it is evidence that has not been cross-examined to, and that is what makes the difference between that evidence and the evidence which, in respect of all reforms and all changes that we have made in regard to social questions, has been carefully heard. There has been, as far as I know, except a short, casual allusion in the huge Report of the Labour Commission seven or eight years ago, no public inquiry into this matter whatever. All the statements that are given to us are on one side. I do not for one moment question the integrity and motives of those who make these statements, but you know that men whose minds are occupied with any fervid feeling, philanthropic or otherwise, are apt to lose the judicial balance of their minds, and to give a very exaggerated force to circumstances which do not deserve it, and to neglect circumstances which are essential to a decision on the question. And it is curious that while we

have to deal with this question in the entire absence of official, and what I call cross-examined, information, we should also be deprived of the advantages which we usually derive from Debates in Parliament. In respect of this measure, we have not the advantage of the expressed opinion of the Members of the House of Commons. These measures passed, I believe, at a very late hour in the evening, when it is not the custom to hold very long Debates. They were not debated upon at all ; they were, no doubt, the subject of very anxious and constant discussion in the Lobbies of the House, but that, very valuable in the formation of the Bills, was of no advantage in testing the information or the arguments of those who supported the Bills, or of allowing the interests that were affected by them to come and plead their case before Parliament. For you must remember, my Lords, that this is a litigation. It is the philanthropic persons and their clients against the employers. I am not saying which is right or which is wrong. Be the employers what they may, they surely have the common right, which every Englishman has, not to be interfered with until their case has been heard and determined. And this is the result of these Bills having been conducted, not in Debates on the floor of the House of Commons, but in those perhaps more potent and less seen discussions which take place in the Lobby. I have tried to find some species of official information upon this Bill, and if I depart from my ordinary custom, and read an extract or two to your Lordships, the blame must be on those who have brought forward this Bill with very little official or authentic information upon it. In the Labour Commission there was one small volume on the labour of women, and there are Reports from the lady Commissioners, Miss Orme, Miss Irwin, Miss Abraham, and, I think, another, giving full replies to a series of questions which were sent down to them from the head Commissioners. It is very remarkable, though the question of seats was in the list of subjects to be dealt with, how very few answers there are in which that question is touched upon. And you will find, as you are going through these Reports, that the question of seats occupies a very small and insignificant position compared to many of those other matters which are dealt with by the lady Sub-Commissioners,

The Lord Bishop of Winchester.

and compared to those, I am bound to say, which the noble Duke dealt with himself. He pointed out that there were all kinds of questions—of ventilation, of sanitary appliances, and so forth—which occupied much greater room in the field of objections and complaints. Now, I find that in this little volume there are some allusions to this question, and I think we all agree that there is an evil which we earnestly wish to see remedied. But the particular remedy which is the subject of this Bill is, I think, advocated by no one. Miss Orme says :

" It seems that the comfort of the attendants does not wholly depend on the existence of seats behind the bar. It is necessary also to consider whether they are allowed to use them, and how long they are on duty without rest. A girl may be far more tired by being in a bar for many hours, even if there are seats, than by standing for a few hours with the prospect of complete rest at a fixed time."

Here is another extract from Miss Orme's report :

" None of the shop assistants I saw desired to have seats behind the counter."

None of them desire the remedy prescribed in this Bill.

" They approve of seats in show-rooms, where a girl can rest comfortably for five minutes. The witnesses are unanimous in saying that short hours are far more needed than seats."

Then Miss Orme says :

" On the whole, the complaints of the women are entirely about low wages and scarcity of work, except that shop assistants also complain of uncomfortable homes and long hours."

Miss Abraham gives evidence with respect to Ireland, to which this Bill also applies. She says :

" In very few cases are seats provided in drapers' shops. The want of seats is not a matter of general complaint. The sitting-rooms and bedrooms and meal-rooms are considered by shop assistants as matters of much graver importance."

Miss Irwin, whose name has been quoted to-night, says :

" There is admittedly a difficulty in many cases in providing seats, owing to the limited space behind the counter, and there might be a further difficulty in making use of them where they are provided, owing to the steady flow of customers."

Then there is an extract, which seems to me of singular importance, from Mr. Pollock, who is general secretary of the Scottish Shopkeepers' Assistants' Union—a man, therefore, who would have no employers' prejudices, and who has a great deal of knowledge of the facts. He says :

" I am not quite clear that it would be practicable to insist on seats being provided behind the counter or at the side of the assistants, because in numbers of cases where girls are employed in selling what are called 'fancies,' such as gloves, etc., I believe the introduction of seats would mean serious loss by causing the removal or curtailment of some department from the best business part of the warehouse, and the consequent loss of employment to the girls."

Now the right rev. Prelate, speaking almost ecstatically, if you can apply such a term to a draper's seat, said it would be absurd to suppose that the employment of women could be diminished, or women lose their places, in consequence of the insistence upon seats. My impression is that Mr. Pollock, the general secretary of the Shopkeepers' Assistants' Union is, upon this matter, a superior authority even to the right rev. Prelate. Miss Clare Collet, a lady who is most deservedly much in the confidence of the Board of Trade, says :—

" I should say that one of the things that strike me in this matter is, that we have hardly any evidence of the opinion of the employers on this question ; it is dealt with exclusively as a question between the doctors and the shop-assistant girls."

But I would refer you to the evidence of a certain witness before the Commission, whose name I do not give—a draper and a large employer—who stated that his female shop assistants did not work more than 74 hours a week, but that if a Bill were passed limiting their labour to 74 hours he should dismiss them and engage men instead. I have found this evidence as a solitary remnant imbedded in a mass of other information. If, of course, we had information from the other side coinciding with the doctrine of the right rev. Prelate, his views would exercise more influence upon us. But wherever we have any glimmer into the feelings of the employing class, we see it is true that if they are harassed by what they consider undue restrictions and interference, they will dismiss the women and employ men instead. I do not believe it is merely a

question of wages, as the right hon. Prelate thinks ; I believe in many cases that between the cost of the employment of men and the cost of the employment of women, if you take into consideration not only the amount of the wages, but the nature and the amount of the work done, the margin is very small. But be that as it may, there are also human feelings to be considered, and this interference of Parliament, which is very strongly felt in many quarters, may stimulate employers to angry and resentful action. I see that among those who waited on the noble Duke there was a Mr. Johnson, who protests against the proposed Bill ; he was of opinion that legislation was necessary. The Chairman asked :

" Do you think that without legislation you can touch those in the East-end ? "

" Yes, I do," was the reply. He did not think legislation was necessary, and said they were already waited on morning, noon, and night by inspectors. Now that feeling exists among them very strongly. I have here a letter from a gentleman, a friend of my own, who is very well known probably to everybody in the House—Sir Blundell Maple—and I think I must listen to him even in preference to the right rev. Prelate. The words that he uses are really very moderate, but they are very pregnant, and they show the hazard you would run by legislation of this kind. Sir Blundell Maple says :

" With regard to this Bill, which is a direct interference with the liberty of the subject, I cannot see that a good and sufficient case has been made out for legislation. It is true that some girls are adversely affected by the occupation of standing and serving in shops, just as many others are adversely affected by occupations of a sedentary and close nature in work-rooms and factories. In many cases the evil is explained by a wrong choice of occupation, bearing in mind the physical powers of the individual girls concerned."

Sir Blundell Maple is entirely beyond suspicion or censure in this matter. He goes on to say :

" My further objection to this Bill is that, if it is passed, it would adversely affect the employment of women in shops."

That is the point I wish to impress upon your Lordships.

" A small shopkeeper would consider that by employing one or more women he would be subject to the visits of the inspector to see if he provided proper and sufficient seats, and all such inspection is intensely distasteful to the retail trader. I believe that to call the Bill

into existence would be to endanger the interests of the very persons it is desired to serve."

That is why I earnestly press upon your Lordships the duty of circumspection in taking such a step. The great evil, I fear, is that the number of women employed would be diminished, and that the wages of women would go down. The great blot upon our civilisation is the position of the lower class of women. The life they have to endure, the wages with which they have to be content, the terrible temptations to which if they fail otherwise to sustain themselves they are exposed, and the value which their strength and their virtue is to the community to which they belong, make me feel that it is of the greatest possible importance that we should do nothing that would diminish the scanty resources of employment and support which women now possess. They have to run a race bearing a terrible burden. It has been said that their wages are about 10s a week. I have heard it put at rather less, and you will find in the book to which I have referred cases where women are serving for 7s. 6d. or even 6s. a week, having out of that to provide their lodgings and provisions. It is a far more terrible abyss into which they will probably be drawn if they should fail to obtain from the existing state of society the sustenance which they require. Let us be very careful before we diminish the chance of sustenance which they have—before we increase the danger of the entire wreck of their moral and physical nature.

I have heard it said again and again that these prophecies were common with the former social Acts, the Acts associated with Lord Ashley's name ; but they were not ; that is an entire mistake. It is perfectly true that in those days the danger of general non-employment was very strongly before the minds of those who resisted the Acts. But the particular danger here is that you are interfering in a competition already of the fiercest and most relentless nature between men and women ; you are pressing down the weaker for the benefit of the stronger. That does not follow the precedent of the former Acts ; it is a special danger against which you are bound to guard. It is not sufficient to tell us that in other circumstances and with other pleas of justification fallacies or mistakes were made by the defenders

The Marquess of Salisbury.

of existing institutions, and that the mistakes have been discovered by time. I do not deny that many mistakes were made, but it does not follow that every argument against a proposal such as this is to be dismissed because other arguments in matters wholly dissimilar have proved to be fallacious. Remember, my Lords, the evidence I have been able to give you. As far as that evidence goes—I do not put it higher than that—there is a real and substantial danger that by putting these new impediments in the way of retail traders and requiring of them obedience to laws which might be very easily made the instruments of blackmail, you are diminishing the market for women's labour and increasing the gravest difficulty with which modern civilisation has to contend. Am I extreme in asking you that before you do that you should take the ordinary precautions fully to inform yourselves of the circumstances with which you are dealing, and that you should give as much examination to them as you would give to the passing of an Act of Parliament to take away a single field from an individual? It appears to me that in dealing with such grave issues, in treading upon such new ground, it is the least duty which patriotism and public spirit would call upon you to perform. The noble Lord has moved that this Bill be read a second time, and, of course, I can do nothing else, if I am forced to vote, but vote against it. But I do earnestly hope that he will take a wiser course, and that he will withdraw his Bill and will accept our assurance that we will do our best to secure a thorough and searching inquiry next session. By the result of that inquiry I shall certainly adhere, and I shall be very glad if the apprehensions, which I think the circumstances and information that I have obtained justify me in entertaining, should turn out to be without foundation.

EARL CARRINGTON : Being an elected member of the London County Council for one of the most populous districts, and having amongst my constituents a large army of these poor shopwomen and girls, it would be simply an act of moral cowardice on my part if I did not raise my voice and express a hope that the House will support this Bill. Three weeks ago the wives and daughters of many of your Lordships acted as saleswomen at the

Bazaar at the Albert Hall, in support of one of the London hospitals; and I tremble to think what would happen to them, after the fatigue they experienced, if they had to stand behind a counter from eight to twelve hours a day five days a week, and sixteen hours on Saturday without the possibility of sitting down, which has been provided for the clerks in all the Post Offices under the Government. What answer will your Lordships be able to give to your wives as to your reason for voting against this Bill? Those who vote against it will probably say that in their opinion the Bill is opposed to all principles of political economy; that they were struck by the observations of Lord Shand, when he said that these matters could be put right by voluntary effort, and that if this legislation were adopted other legislation would follow to compel people to supply their servants with macintoshes, goloshes, and umbrellas. They may say that this is the thin edge of the wedge, and that they were much impressed by the weighty speech made a few weeks ago by the Noble Marquess, who asked if your Lordships were prepared to have an army of inspectors examining your houses to see that there were a sufficient number of chairs placed at stated intervals, so that at moments of exhaustion the housemaids might sit down. There now appears to be a change of front. We are told that these evils are admitted, and that there are also other evils which must be inquired into. The Government say that if this Bill is now withdrawn they will examine into the whole subject, and introduce legislation next year. I hope the noble Duke will stick to the Bill and not accept any compromise, and in that way save these hard-working and unprotected women from another twelve months' misery and suffering.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH : I earnestly hope that my noble friend will not accept the proposal of the noble Marquess at the head of the Government, who has held out a challenge which I would like to take up. He has told your Lordships that on this important matter there has been no official expression on the part of the supporters of this Bill in the other House. I undoubtedly agree with the noble Marquess when he says that part and parcel of this evil is the long hours which

these unfortunate women have to work, and I do not think it has been sufficiently impressed upon the House that they work eighty-four hours a week in a stuffy and unwholesome atmosphere. But a very distinguished and important member of Her Majesty's Government has already expressed himself very strongly upon this question. Mr. Chamberlain, speaking at a great meeting at Birmingham as long ago as 1892, in support of Sir John Lubbock's Shop Hours Bill said :

" People of all parties are represented on this platform, and, in their presence, I assert that this question is a question which is more urgent and more important for the welfare of the people than any constitutional changes—whether in Ireland or elsewhere—and that it ought, therefore, to be put in the first rank in any programme, either of the Parliament or of Her Majesty's Government."

Since that time the right hon. Gentleman has occupied a most important position in her Majesty's Government, but nothing has been done. Those who feel strongly on this subject, as I myself do, are not prepared to allow this matter to be indefinitely shelved. No doubt Sir Blundell Maple is entitled to have an opinion upon this question, but I should like to ask the noble Marquess, and your Lordships, why, if Sir Blundell Maple held these strong views in opposition to this Bill, he did not in his place in Parliament speak against it; and why, if this Bill introduces such novel and dangerous principles as has been stated, the Government, of which the noble Marquess is Prime Minister, and which has almost the largest majority ever possessed by any Government, did not take steps to have the Bill referred to a Select Committee of the House of Commons. The answer is conclusive. The Government did not do it because they dared not. Although I am prepared to respect the individual opinions of noble lords on this question, I maintain, with the greatest respect, that the House will not be acting wisely in ignoring the unanimous opinion of the people, properly expressed through their representatives in the House of Commons. Anyone who has been in the House of Commons knows the great difficulty which is experienced in getting any measure through which is not a Government measure. I received a letter recently from Sir John Lubbock saying that although his Early Closing Bill had

passed its Second Reading without any opposition, and had gone through the Grand Committee on Trade, he was not able to carry it further because it had been persistently blocked by the 12 o'clock rule. This Bill, on the other hand, went through the House of Commons without any opposition, and to shelve it now would be a fraud and an imposture to which I will not be a party.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON: My Lords, I trust the noble Duke will not withdraw this Bill. I cannot help thinking that it is wise and well that we should have the courage to express our opinions on matters of this kind. Arguments have been addressed to your Lordships which must unquestionably have weight with all those who are ready to give a favourable and dispassionate consideration to the matter, and no one will be so audacious as to imagine that the Bill, if passed, will be passed without Amendment. But on the general principle of the Bill I hope we shall have an opportunity of pronouncing judgment. The noble Marquess has said that there is lack of official evidence. I do not pretend to come here as an expert, nor have I taken that pilgrimage of philanthropy which has been taken by my right Rev. Brother, but at the same time I think we ought to remember that this question of seats in shops is part of a larger question which has formed the subject of considerable inquiry in times past. There was an inquiry in 1886 and another in 1895, and these inquiries related to the condition of shop assistants, the provision of seats being touched upon. Those inquiries were open, and employers of labour if they had chosen to give evidence were welcome. The Drapers' Chamber of Commerce is entirely in favour of this Bill, and I claim that that chamber represents a large amount of expert opinion. The associations connected with this movement which have considered this matter are all in favour of the Bill, and it is not on the casual investigation of a few irresponsible individuals that the views in favour of the Bill which have been presented to your Lordships have been arrived at. They are the result of twenty years' agitation and consideration. Therefore I hope that at least your Lordships will go to a Division on the Bill. The fear has been expressed more than once tonight that if you pass this measure you

The Earl of Portsmouth.

will harass the position of women and reduce their means of employment. It would be a sad and sorry thing to increase the difficulties connected with the employment of women, but I do not believe the Bill will have that result, or that it will injure the interests of shopkeepers themselves. I quite admit that there is a very slight margin of difference between the wages paid to men and to women in the smart West-end shops, but not so in the shops which will be mainly affected by this Bill. In the West End shops you have the young lady who can command a considerable wage, but when you go to the other class of shops you have to deal with the assistant who cannot claim a wage which you would imagine she ought to be able to claim; and my belief is that, in the case of the shops which are specially concerned, the difference between the wages of men and women assistants is such that the shopkeepers will think twice before they dispossess the women and employ men. There are a great many people who attempt to prophesy and threaten evil things when legislation of this kind is proposed, and we know perfectly well that when the factory legislation was first submitted it was said that we should interfere with trade, but this was successfully answered by the startling increase in trade which followed the passing of the first Factory Act. The preservation of health, in the end, is a great economy, and I do not believe the shopowner will find that he is other than the gainer by a Bill of this kind. A fear has also been expressed that a shopkeeper who provides seats for his attendants may lose custom on that ground. I believe, on the other hand, that he will gain custom thereby. I do not think there are any ladies who would be offended because they came across a shop-assistant seated when they entered a shop. Customers leave a shop because of what they call the impertinence or the indifference of the person who is serving them. Is not the apparent bad humour on the part of the shop-assistant largely due to her having been standing for so long a time? When we complain of the ill-temper of those who serve us, we often forget that ill-temper is the result of fatigue and nervous exhaustion. There will be no loss to the shopkeeper when once it has been secured that those who serve the public serve them under con-

ditions of health which make for good temper and a cheerful, and not reluctant, smile. I would be slow, indeed, to interfere with trade, but wherever an evil which is being suffered is likely to touch the vital interests of society at large, then I contend that legislation is fairly justified in interposing. Is this a case of that kind? I venture to say it is. Your Lordships have placed before you evidence of medical men and others, which I am sure you will not disregard, pointing to the dangers attending the present state of things. The tens of thousands of women who are engaged in this shop work represent the potential motherhood of unborn generations. Individual health is not merely the capital of the poor; it is also the national capital, which we cannot afford to dispense with, and in the interests of the national health I ask your Lordships to pause before you reject this measure.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I do not think I ought to give a silent vote upon this question, but I shall avoid going into the general topics which have been admirably dealt with by the noble Lords who have spoken in favour of the Bill. I am more disposed to endeavour to deal with the argument used by the noble Marquess in favour of not now proceeding with the Bill, but of relegating the matter to inquiry. I could not help feeling, when I listened to the noble Marquess, that the proposal he made was a very convenient mode of shelving the question for no one knows how long. The noble Marquess dwelt very much upon the many other evils under which women labour in shops, and upon the necessity of not restricting ourselves to this subject, but of entering upon a general survey of the whole question. General surveys take very long indeed before they bear fruit. One cannot help thinking of the old-age pensions question, which we have had before us for many years, and of many other subjects of the same kind. To-night, however, we have a definite, plain, and simple point before us. Personally, I have no special knowledge on this matter, but I can hardly understand that anyone can doubt that it is a most intolerable thing that large numbers of young women should have no means of sitting down for hours and hours together. I am not a partisan, and I never was in favour of very much interference in small matters of trade.

I remember all the discussions which took place upon the factory legislation. Every kind of objection was raised by employers of the highest repute to that legislation, for they really and truly believed that if we interfered in the way Lord Shaftesbury and those who acted with him proposed, a fatal blow would be dealt at some of the great industries of the country. We have had the benefit of experience. It has been positively and clearly shown that the legislation, whilst it has prevented some of the greatest, and some of the most cruel evils, has not interfered with the prosperity of the country. In the case of women and children, I think it is amply justifiable that the Legislature should in many cases directly interfere. This is a case of positive cruelty. It is one in which young women grievously suffer. We do not need any inquiry. One of the right rev. Prelates, who has spoken on this subject, asked whether we should like it if we were compelled to stand during the whole of a long Debate; but we are differently constituted to women, and there are fatigues which we can endure, but which are cruelly hurtful to the health of young women. It has been said that a certain number of women might lose employment if this measure passes. Even such a contingency is not to be set against the necessity of preventing the evils which beset the whole class of shop-workers. For these reasons I earnestly trust your Lordships will not relegate this Bill to an inquiry, but that we shall take a Vote upon it. Allusion was made to the fact that not one word was said against the Bill in the other House. Surely, if there had been any strong, powerful feeling against the measure, it would have found expression in the House of Commons. It is so easy to bar

the progress of a Bill in the other House, that Sir Blundell Maple or any other Member could have stopped the measure or insisted on its going through its full course. I will only say in conclusion that I trust the noble Duke in charge of the Bill will take the sense of the House upon it.

LORD KELVIN : My Lords, I am confident that, if we were convinced that this Bill would be beneficial in its results, persuasive eloquence would not be needed to induce us to vote for it, but I feel that we do not know enough about the subject. It is a small and simple issue, utterly unlike the question of old-age pensions. The proposal to relegate this Bill to a Select Committee would not mean the indefinite postponement of the Bill, for, if the inquiry shows that it is really necessary, there will be no difficulty in passing the measure next session. On this ground I hope the noble Duke will accept the advice which has been given to him by the noble Marquess. If, however, we are compelled to vote, I shall have to reluctantly vote against the Bill, because I am not absolutely convinced that its results will be beneficial. I do not think it has been sufficiently proved that the Bill will not seriously impair liberty, and introduce evils greater than those which its object is to remedy.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE : I do not rise for the purpose of making a speech, but as I came here with the intention of supporting this Bill I feel bound to say that, after the appeal of the noble Marquess to the noble Duke in charge of the Bill, I, for my part, shall feel it quite impossible to support the measure.

On Question "Whether the Bill be now read 2^a" their Lordships divided :—Contents, 73 ; Not-Contents, 28.

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Monck, L. (*V. Monck.*)
Monk Bretton, L.
Monkswell, L.
Muncester, L.
Penrhyn, L.
Plunket, L.
Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L. [*Teller.*]

Robartes, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford.*)
Stalbridge, L.
Templemore, L.
Thring, L.
Wenlock, L.
Windsor, L.
Wrottesley, L.

NOT CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)

Dudley, E.
Faversham, E.
Fortescue, E.
Grey, E.
Waldegrave, E.

Clanwilliam, L. (*E. Clanwilliam.*)

Portland, D.

Llandaff, V.

Colville of Culross, L.
Cranworth, L.

Hertford, M.
Salisbury, M.

Ashbourne, L.
Bagot, L.
Brampton, L.
Calthorpe, L.

Fermanagh, L. (*E. Erne.*)
Glanusk, L.
Kelvin, L.
Lawrence, L.
Llangattock, L.
Norton, L.
Shand, L. [*Teller.*]
Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)
[*Teller.*]

Pembroke and Montgomery, E.
(*L. Steward.*)
Dartmouth, E.
de Montalt, E.

Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

MARRIAGES VALIDITY (No. 2) BILL
[H.L.]

House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS BILL [H.L.]

Read 3^a (according to Order); Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at Seven of the clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 11th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

Standing Orders not previously inquired into complied with.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are

applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

ROCHDALE CANAL BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [Lords].

Standing Orders applicable thereto complied with.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [Lords].

Ordered that the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH (CARDIFF) BILL
[Lords].

**GREAT GRIMSBY STREET TRAMWAYS
BILL** [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

FYLDE WATER BOARD BILL [Lords]
(by Order).

Read a second time, and committed.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Committee :

1. "That, in the case of the Portsmouth Corporation Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with : That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That, in case of the Workington Corporation Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with : That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

Resolutions agreed to.

SUNDERLAND CORPORATION BILL
[Lords].

Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they agreed to—

**MILITARY LANDS PROVISIONAL
ORDER BILL.**

IONIAN BANK BILL.

Without Amendment.

AYR BURGH BILL.

SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

With Amendments.

Amendments to—

GREAT YARMOUTH PIER BILL [Lords].

Without Amendment.

PETITIONS.

**GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL
AUTHORITIES).**

Petition from Barnet, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

MONEY-LENDING BILL.

Petition from Liverpool, against ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Petition from Dundee, against ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Lye, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY (CORRESPONDENCE).

Return [presented 10th July] to be printed. (No. 273.)

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND), ACT 1877.

Account presented of the Receipts and Payments under the Act during the year ended the 31st March, 1899 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 274.)

CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Copy presented of Second Report by the Board of Trade of Proceedings under the Conciliation Act, 1896 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 275.)

SIERRA LEONE.

Copy presented of Report by Her Majesty's Commissioner, and correspondence on the subject of the Insurrection in the Sierra Leone Protectorate, 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (VOLUNTEERS).

Copy presented of proposed Amendment of the scheme relative to the efficiency of Volunteers under Her Majesty's Orders in Council, dated 31st July, 1880, 14th April, 1884, etc. ; Draft Efficiency Certificate for the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE.

Copy presented of Report of the Governors of Wellington College for the year ending 31st December, 1898, with accounts [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

**AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
(IRELAND).**

Copy presented of Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report on Agriculture, for the year 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).

Copy presented of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series No. 507 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection that they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, Mr. Gold; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Lambert.

Mr. HALSEY further reported from the Committee that they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, Mr. Kemp; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Goulding.

Mr. HALSEY further reported from the Committee that they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures, the following Member, Mr. Galloway.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT
(1893) AMENDMENT.**

Bill to amend the University of London Act, 1898, with respect to Holloway College, ordered to be brought in by Sir John Gorst, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Attorney-General.

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT
(1898) AMENDMENT BILL.**

"To amend the University of London Act, 1898, with respect to Holloway College," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 267).

QUESTIONS.

BOYS IN THE ROYAL MARINES.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the consent of the parents or guardians is necessary in the case of boys who enlist in the Royal Marines.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St George's, Hanover Square): The only boys in the Royal Marines are buglers. The parents' consent is obtained.

DERELICTS IN THE ATLANTIC.

MR. MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the Admiralty sent out H.M.S. "Melampus" and "Gossamer" into the Atlantic about 300 miles to seek for the ocean derelict ship from Florida, named "Sidurtha," and found her in tempestuous weather, and safely brought her into Bantry Bay; and if this success will encourage the Admiralty to continue its efforts in this direction.

MR. GOSCHEN: Yes, Sir, but I can give no more definite answer.

CONDEMNED NAVAL STORES.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to the Fourth Report of the Committee on Public Accounts, in which attention is called to the fact that a large condemnation of salt pork and salt beef on the "Sans Pareil" and other ships, and furthermore that 36,000 lbs. of salt meat were condemned as unfit for consumption in the victualling yard at Deptford, will he state whether this meat was foreign or home fed; and, in view of this enormous loss of food, the Admiralty would consider the advisability of placing contracts for salt meat with Irish or other home curers, so as to ensure a periodical supply of wholesome salt meat.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): No condemnation of meat was made in the "Sans Pareil" or any other of Her Majesty's ships, nor were any complaints received from them. The meat in question was condemned at Deptford. With the exception of 800 lbs., which was Danish, the whole of the pork condemned was Irish.

All the beef condemned was American. The whole of the salt beef consumed in the Navy has until recently been obtained from America, which is the only available commercial source of supply, but 50,000lbs. is now cured annually at Deptford Victualling Yard. In the last annual contracts for pork three-fourths of the total requirements were allotted to Irish firms and one-fourth only to Danish firms.

MR. FLYNN : Is it not the fact that the meat condemned was condemned owing to the manner in which it was treated in the Victualling Yard ?

MR. MACARTNEY : No fault was found as to it. It had been properly treated in the yard.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) : Is it not a fact there is only $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. difference in the price of foreign and home bred pork ?

MR. MACARTNEY : I cannot answer that without notice.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.) : Does the hon. gentleman say sailors have no right to object to rotten pork ?

(No answer was given).

ADMIRALTY CONTRACTS.

MR. MORRIS (Kilkenny, S.) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if Her Majesty's Government have entered into a contract with the Volenite Company for a supply of their manufacture for steam joints, etc., or do they propose doing so.

MR. MACARTNEY : No communications have passed between the Admiralty and the company in regard to their manufacturers.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS—MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the paragraph in *The Times* of 5th July, with regard to military preparations for South Africa, and the despatch of special service officers, was communicated to that newspaper with the knowledge of the Secretary of State for War.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) : Yes, Sir.

THE EXPANDING BULLET.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether he will consent to lay upon the Table of the House accounts of the surgical experiments as to the effects of the Mark IV. missile, on the basis of which experiments the bullet is now being served out to British soldiers sent on service to South Africa ; and if he can state whether the reported condemnation of the Dum-Dum bullet by the Peace Conference at the Hague has been officially brought under the notice of the War Office authorities.

*MR. WYNDHAM : The Mark IV. has been the service bullet for the British Army since February, 1898, and, as such, has been issued to our troops in South Africa. I cannot lay before the House reports either of the experiments which led to the adoption of that bullet or of more recent experiments, since they contain confidential information. These experiments were not merely, as the hon. Member suggests, of a surgical character. They were conducted to solve a number of physical problems, in considering which the humanitarian aspect of the question was not left out of sight. Our representatives at The Hague have reported the proceedings of the Conference from time to time ; but these interim reports have necessarily been partial and inconclusive.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : Is it not a fact that this bullet has been constructed with a view to expand on striking like the Dum-Dum bullets ?

*MR. WYNDHAM : There are great objections to arguing this question by way of question and answer. The bullet has been constructed to achieve a number of objects, one of which is that its calibre should be greater later on than when it leaves the muzzle of the rifle.

MR. DILLON : I beg to give notice that I shall raise this question on the War Office Vote.

STRAW SUPPLIES FOR ALDERSHOT.

MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the straw now being supplied for the use of the Army at Woolwich and Aldershot is foreign straw grown in France ; whether

it is the custom in contracts for public works to specify that British material should be used ; and whether there is any sufficient reason why such a course should not be pursued when tenders are invited for straw for the British Army.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): I am not aware that French straw is supplied at Woolwich and Aldershot. The military authorities only take cognisance of the quality of the straw, and not of its place of origin.

MR. PERKS : Do they not take cognisance of the price also ?

MR. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS : Certainly. But the hon. Member's question only raises the subject of origin, not of price.

CAPTAIN DONELAN : Is the hon. Gentleman aware that sufficient straw is grown in Ireland to litter all the horses of the British Army ?

(No answer was given.)

BENGAL ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) had given notice to ask the Secretary of State for India whether Sir Charles Paul, the Advocate-General of Bengal, is at present in Europe ; what is the period of his leave of absence from India ; whether anyone has been appointed to discharge the duties of the office, some of which are of a quasi-judicial character, during his absence ; and, in particular, to whom can a person erroneously convicted apply for a certificate that there was error in the decision in point of law, as provided by Section 25 of the Letters Patent of 1865 ; and who is empowered, in a case tried by a High Court, to enter a *nolle prosequi*, in pursuance of Section 333 of the Criminal Procedure Code. On the Question being called the hon. Member said he understood that Mr. Woodroffe had been appointed to the office, but he would like to know what interval elapsed between Sir Charles Paul's departure and the appointment of his successor.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing) : I cannot say exactly, probably a month or two. Sir Charles Paul is at

present in Europe on leave, which expires on the 31st December, 1899. Mr. J. T. Woodroffe, of the Calcutta Bar, has been appointed to discharge the duties of his office, including those mentioned in the third and fourth paragraphs of the Question, during his absence.

INDIAN CURRENCY.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, whether under the scheme of the Currency Commissioners sovereigns will be a legal tender in India at all places and for all sums down to the value of £1, or only at certain specified centres of trade and for considerable amounts ; and whether in ordinary inland mercantile transactions sovereigns will be exchangeable against rupees in a fixed ratio, or, as they are now, at a frequently varying valuation in the open market.

LORD G. HAMILTON : The proposal of the Indian Currency Committee is that the sovereign shall be made a legal tender and current coin in India ; and they make no recommendation that this shall be restricted to certain specified centres of trade or to considerable amounts. If the sovereign is declared by law to be legal tender at a fixed ratio, it will be open to any debtor in any part of India to discharge his debt in sovereigns at that ratio.

THE WAIMA DISASTER.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) : I beg to ask the UnderSecretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the claim of this country against France in respect of the Waima disaster has yet been referred to arbitration ; and, if not, whether the reference is delayed until the claims of the Government of the French Republic against the Royal Niger Company and the counterclaim of the company against France are first adjusted.

***THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY** (Mr. HANBURY, Preston) (for The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) : The question of the terms on which this question and other claims arising out of events in West Africa could be submitted to arbitration is still under the consideration of the two Governments.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): Will the Government reconsider the question of making an advance to the survivors of the slain officers?

***MR. HANBURY**: I know nothing about the matter.

**CANCER—LABORATORY AT BUFFALO,
U.S.A.—PROPOSED ROYAL COM-
MISSION.**

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the fact that the increase in the number of deaths from cancer in the State of New York has induced the Legislature of that State to endow a laboratory at Buffalo for the study of that disease; and if he will request the British Embassy at Washington to procure copies of any official reports on the subject of the institution of that State laboratory and its working.

***THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE** (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) (for Mr. BRODRICK): The attention of the Foreign Office has not previously been called to this fact, but I shall have much pleasure in procuring the desired information from Her Majesty's Embassy at Washington.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the fact that the number of deaths registered as from cancer per million of the population of the United Kingdom has within the past thirty years more than doubled; and whether, in view of the increase, he will consider the expediency of appointing a Commission to inquire into the subject, for the purpose, if possible, of devising some means whereby the frequency of the disease may be diminished.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.): My right hon. friend wishes me to say that the attention of the Local Government Board has been called to the large increase in the number of deaths from cancer. They have, as opportunity has arisen, caused scientific research to be made into the natural history and causes of cancer; but I am advised that, in the present state of knowledge on the subject, no useful purpose

would be likely to be served by the appointment of a Royal Commission with regard to it.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

MR. LAMBERT (Devon, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state approximately what number of Uitlanders in the South African Republic have the right to exercise the franchise now, and what number would have it presuming the conditions were the same as in the Orange Free State; and if he could state what number would receive it within a reasonable time under Sir Alfred Milner's proposals, and how this would compare with the latest proposals of President Kruger.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I do not know the number of Uitlanders in the South African Republic now entitled to exercise the franchise. In reply to the other questions, I have received the following telegram from Sir A. Milner:

"8th July. No. 4.—Your telegrams of 28th June and 7th July, No. 2, reliable statistics are unobtainable. Only roughest possible estimates can be given. British Agent in South African Republic has obtained through Vice-Consul at Johannesburg estimate on two of the points raised (?two), viz.: (1) What number would have franchise presuming conditions same as in Orange Free State? Answer: approximately 44,000. (2) What number would receive it in a reasonable time under my proposal? Answer: highest approximate estimate is 33,000. I do not know how these figures are arrived at. But I have myself gone somewhat elaborately into figures, using such scanty official material as exists, and taking account of proportion of persons under age to those of full age in different classes of population, average death rate, etc., using all the statistical data I can get, and bearing in mind extremely fluctuating nature of population, especially miners, think that male Uitlanders of full age domiciled in country for five years do not much exceed 30,000. But, of course, many do not possess property or income qualification, and of those who do a certain number would not desire to become citizens of South African Republic. I believe, even if conditions of admission were as liberal as possible, not more than two-thirds of number become citizens immediately. Two independent estimates I have heard of from well-informed persons familiar with conditions in Transvaal put number at about 15,000, but I do not know basis of their calculation. As regards President's scheme, in its original form it would have admitted very few people indeed at once—I think about 1,000."

In a further telegram received from Sir

A. Milner, he reports the following conversation with Mr. Hofmeyr :

" I inquired of Hofmeyr whether Government of South African Republic had any idea how many Uitlanders would be admitted under this or any scheme. He replied, estimates varied greatly, but nobody really knew. This was one reason why proportion of Uitlanders to total seats could not be finally fixed at once. It would be necessary to wait and see how many obtain franchise. It would take six months at least to complete lists. Election could not be held till next year. He had advised four new seats for mining districts at once; this was what Executive Council intended to grant. General scheme of redistribution would be postponed till later."

MR. J. E. ELLIS (Nottingham, Rushcliffe) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any communications have been made to the responsible Ministers of the self-governing Colonies of the Cape and Natal with respect to the despatch by the Government of special service officers to South Africa to organise the residents as well as the police and local forces; whether any replies have been received to such communications; and whether such communications and replies will be laid before the House.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : No, Sir ; no such communications have been made.

MR. DAVITT : Will the right hon. Gentleman say whether he will present more Papers with regard to the Transvaal to the House ?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : Well, Sir, I am very much in the hands of the House with regard to the matter. I do not think that there is any reason against the presentation of the Papers now, but at the same time the matter is not concluded, and any Papers that could be presented would be incomplete, and would not add much to the information already in the possession of the House. But if it is desired, I could easily present Papers at once as to the suzerainty which have been published already in the Green Book of the Transvaal, and also the Papers with a full account of the Conference at Bloemfontein, which are now rather out of date in consequence of subsequent proposals.

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can give the House any information as to the position of affairs in South Africa.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : At the Conference at Bloemfontein proposals were made by Sir Alfred Milner and President Kruger respectively as to the enfranchisement of aliens in the South African Republic. Sir Alfred Milner regarded the President's proposals as altogether inadequate to meet the case, and the Conference broke up. Since the Conference there have been private and unofficial discussions between the Government of the South African Republic and Mr. Hofmeyr, Mr. Herholdt, one of the Cape Ministers, and Mr. Fischer, a Member of the Executive of the Orange Free State, which have resulted in new franchise proposals being submitted by President Kruger to the First Volksraad of the South African Republic. Sir Alfred Milner's proposals were, briefly, franchise after five years, retrospective. Under the President's original proposals not a single Uitlander would get the franchise immediately. Those who came in before 1890 would get it in two and a half years. Others already resident for two years would have to wait five years longer. Those coming in in future would have to wait seven and a half years. All would have to undergo the objectionable naturalisation period. Under the latest proposals the naturalisation period is removed. Those who came in before 1890 get the franchise at once, and those who came in in 1890 and subsequent years get it as soon as they have completed nine years' residence. There will thus be a small immediate enfranchisement of aliens who are already resident in the country, and additions will be made each year until five years from the passing of the Act, when all aliens who have been seven years in the country at that time, and who possess the conditions, may be enfranchised. Newcomers will be entitled to the franchise seven years after they have given written notice of their desire to become burghers of the State. The number of members allotted to the Gold Fields will be increased by four. In the absence of fuller information it is impossible to be absolutely certain of the practical effect of the whole scheme. So far as we are able to judge from the information before us the new scheme will have no immediate effect on the representation in the First Volksraad of the alien population; it is not certain that they could carry any of the seats allotted to the Rand until a much later period.

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

MR. J. E. ELLIS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the railway companies usually make, on the 1st July and at other periods of the year, great and widespread changes in the running of their passenger trains; that on the 1st July last it was not possible to obtain in many cases any official notification of these changes on the part of the railway companies; and that, in some cases, the time-tables were not obtainable before Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th July; and whether he will represent to the railway companies the great public inconvenience caused by this belated publication of their time tables, and urge upon them the necessity of reasonably early official notification of changes in their passenger services.

MR. RITCHIE: I am not myself aware of the circumstances referred to in the Question of the hon. Gentleman, but if they are correctly described they must lead to a large amount of inconvenience. I shall be glad to communicate with the railway companies on the subject, and will inform the hon. Gentleman of the result.

INSPECTORS OF RAILWAYS.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Bright-side): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he has appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Von Donop, R.E., to be an inspector of railways; whether only military men are selected for such posts; and are all civilians excluded from the railway inspectorate.

MR. RITCHIE: The answer to the first question is yes. The inspectors of railways have hitherto been selected from the corps of Royal Engineers. The sub-inspectors are civilians.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he can state the amount of the sum to be deducted in each case from the amount payable to the Counties of Warwick and Derby, and from the county boroughs of Birmingham and Derby out of the Local Taxation grant to provide the £87,000 to be taken from the grant under the Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): The share of the counties and county boroughs named in a sum of £87,000 distributed in the proportion of what are known as the "discontinued grants" would amount to £911, £1,070, £1,276, and £202 respectively.

OPEN-AIR PREACHING AT CHIPPING CAMPDEN.

MR. PERKS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of a Wesleyan Methodist lay evangelist employed under the direction of the Wesleyan Conference, named R. M. Redward, who was summoned before the Chipping Campden magistrates on the 4th July for infringing a bye-law of the Gloucestershire County Council by preaching in the village of Campden, at a spot where preaching has been permitted for many generations; whether he is aware that the summons was granted by Canon Bourne, the resident clergyman of the Church of England, at the instance of one of his parishioners; that the Rev. Canon Bourne sat upon the bench to judge the case; and that, upon an adjournment being asked by the evangelist in order to secure legal assistance, and without hearing the evidence, Canon Bourne described the Wesleyan evangelist as a street brawler; and whether, under such circumstances, he will advise the reverend magistrate not to adjudicate upon a case in which he is interested and which he has so prejudged.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): I have no knowledge of these circumstances except what is conveyed in the question; but on the facts as there stated I should not consider it consistent with my duty to interfere by advice or otherwise.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): Will the right hon. Gentleman make inquiries as to whether the statement is correct?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have no means of enforcing advice, if I offer any.

MR. PERKS: Will the right hon. Gentleman kindly inquire whether in a neighbouring parish a clergyman, who is

accompanied by a large choir, preaches out of doors?

Committee, the practice will be discontinued at this office.

PORTSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has received a petition from some ratepayers of Portslade-by-the-Sea making serious charges against the Portslade Urban District Council; and whether he will order an inquiry to be made into the alleged irregularities.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: The petition referred to, which was signed by only two ratepayers, has been received. The alleged irregularities do not relate to matters respecting which the Local Government Board are empowered to order an inquiry. Some of them might be brought under the notice of the district auditor at the audit, and I am pointing this out to the petitioners.

STATIONERY OFFICE CONTRACTS— THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

MR. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state what is the usual custom of giving out contracts by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, whether it rests entirely with the Controller, or whether they are issued jointly by the Controller and the Treasury officials.

MR. HANBURY (Preston): Ordinary contracts given by Her Majesty's Stationery Office are entered into by the Controller on his own responsibility, but contracts of an exceptional character are not granted without previous communication with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury. I take the whole responsibility; for instance, for the *Hansard* contract, which the hon. Member probably has in his mind.

LIVERPOOL EXCHANGE POST OFFICE.

MR. STOCK (Liverpool, Walton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether at the post office at the Liverpool Exchange six telegraphists who are engaged upon counter duties each perform twenty-six weeks of split duties annually; and, whether, in view of the condemnation of these duties by the Tweedmouth

MR. HANBURY: At the Liverpool Exchange office ten sorting clerks and telegraphists are employed upon a split duty in alternate weeks. In May last they were given the option of returning to the head office, but only four out of the ten availed themselves of the offer, and the vacancies they created were readily filled by other officers. The Tweedmouth Committee recommended that where split duties are found to be necessary in the interests of the service they should be so arranged that the officers performing them should enjoy during each twenty-four hours nine clear unbroken hours at home. In the present instance the split duties are necessary in the interest of the service, and the officers performing them enjoy during each twenty-four hours upwards of twelve hours' continuous rest, and have an unbroken eight hours' duty every alternate week. It has been found practicable to arrange that during the summer months the ten officers shall be employed on a split duty only once in four or five weeks instead of in alternate weeks.

IRISH GLEBE LOANS.

MR. M'GHEE (Louth, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what are the exceptional expenses connected with the service of glebe loans; whether he can give the figures of special expenses in connection with these loans; and what is the gross annual profit arising from glebe loans at present.

MR. HANBURY: It is not possible to give within the limits of an answer to a question full particulars of the expenses connected with a loan from the Local Loans Fund; but they include the surveying, legal, and clerical work prior to the issue of a loan, and the clerical and other expenses of obtaining repayment of instalments and keeping accounts of the loan. None of these items depend on the amount of the loan, and their cost is therefore proportionately least on loans for small amounts, such as glebe loans are when compared with the bulk of public loans. It is impossible to state the precise expenses connected with a particular small group of loans; but there is no reason to conclude that glebe loans are a source of profit to the loans fund.

**INSANITARY POST OFFICE BUILDINGS
IN E.C. DISTRICT, LONDON.**

MR. MADDISON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether, on 19th August, 1897, the staff of the Eastern Central District, London, submitted a petition, part of which drew attention to the insanitary nature of the post office buildings in that district. Whether he is aware that the staff are now compelled to eat their food in underground cellars, and in some cases the conveniences are practically in the same compartment; and whether a searching inquiry will be made into the sanitary arrangements at Gracechurch Street, Great Tower Street, and Lombard Street Post Offices.

MR. HANBURY: The petition referred to was dated the 19th of August, 1898, not 1897. A branch post office in the City or Eastern Central District usually consists of a ground floor and basement, the cloak and dining rooms being on the basement. Necessarily these are sometimes nearer to the lavatory than can be arranged in less crowded localities. The office in Gracechurch Street is being enlarged and the sanitary arrangements improved. There is no good ground for complaint against the office in Great Tower Street; and the sanitary arrangements at the Lombard Street office are about to be improved. The branch post offices in the City are under constant inspection, and any complaint affecting ventilation or sanitation would receive attention at once.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state the maximum annual liability incurred by the Congested Districts Board up to the present time in providing guarantees for telegraph offices in the congested area, and the total number of telegraph extensions thus secured through the assistance of the Board.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that out of eighteen applications for telegraphic extensions they have offered their published terms of help in twelve cases. The maximum liability for the twelve is £184 5s., but the Board are not yet in a position to say in how many of these approved cases the parish councils will accept their offer.

PORTNAGURAN HARBOUR.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the fact that a harbour is urgently needed at Portnagurran, Broad Bay, Island of Lewis, and that the estimated cost, about £30,000, is greatly in excess of any sum which the Congested Districts Board can give, will the Secretary for Scotland consider the expediency of making application to the Treasury for a special grant for the construction of this harbour in order that effect may be given to the recommendation of the Walpole Commission of 1891.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: Considering the requirements of Broad Bay in proportion to those of other parts of the Kingdom, and considering also the liberal grants which have recently been made for works in Lewis, the Secretary for Scotland does not feel at present that he can recommend the Treasury to embark on any such costly work as Portnagurran Harbour. The Treasury have refused to consider grants unless two-thirds of the estimate is provided locally.

SCOTTISH FISHERY CRUISERS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if the Scottish Fishery Board will ascertain from the commanders of the Board's cruisers the number of days' leave of absence granted to the crew of each cruiser during the year 1898.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I have already informed the hon. Member that the amount of leave is a matter which rests entirely with the discretion of the commander. In these circumstances the Secretary for Scotland does not propose to ask for the information in question.

BEE-KEEPING IN ROSS-SHIRE.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state at what places in Ross-shire efforts have been made to find properly qualified persons to take an interest in bee-keeping: and will he state whether any fully-equipped hives, such as have been sent to the Island of Coll, have been offered to townships in the congested area of Ross-shire.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Congested Districts Board has to the best of its ability communicated with the various congested districts through the assistance of various persons. I am not in a position to state categorically what

exact places in Ross-shire have been approached as regards bee-keeping, which after all is only one of the many objects to which the efforts of the Congested Districts Board are directed. If the hon. Member is aware of any persons in Ross-shire qualified to keep bees he will do well to suggest to them to make application to the Congested Districts Board, when their request shall have most careful attention.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeen-shire, W.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, in view of the extensive alterations in the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill, it will be reprinted before the Third Reading.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: Bills are never reprinted for Third Reading. As soon as the Third Reading is taken of the Bill it will be reprinted at once for introduction in another place. As a matter of fact, the changes on the Report stage were not extensive.

STRABANE TOWN COMMISSIONERS.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the correspondence between the Town Commissioners of Strabane and the Local Government Board of Ireland, in which complaint is made that the town of Strabane is included in the area of charge for expenses incurred in the abortive scheme for supplying the districts of Sion and Ballyfalcon with water; whether he is aware that the Secretary of the Board, in his letter to the Commissioners, stated that the subject would receive the attention of the Board, although, previous to writing the said letter and after receiving the said complaint of the Commissioners, a sealed Order had actually been issued to the District Council of Strabane including Strabane in the area of charge; and whether he will inquire into the matter with a view to revoking the sealed Order on being satisfied of its injustice.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): It is true that the Town Commissioners of Strabane have complained of the inclusion of the town in

the area of charge referred to. The facts are as stated in the second paragraph. This case, and others of the same kind, are at present under consideration by the Government.

MR. DAVITT: Has not a competent legal authority in Ireland stated that this order is illegal?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I have heard so.

IRISH DISPENSARY DOCTORS' HOLIDAYS.

MR. YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant for Ireland whether it is the intention of the Local Government Board of Ireland to apply Section 58, Sub-section (2), of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, in respect of the salaries of medical practitioners who act as *locum tenens* during the annual vacation of each dispensary officer, in order that a recoupment of one-half of those salaries may be received in same manner as half the salaries of the permanent medical officers is recouped.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The reply to this question is in the negative. It has never hitherto been the practice to allow recoupment in respect of the remuneration paid to a person employed as *locum tenens* for a medical officer when on leave of absence.

WICKLOW SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received from the School Attendance Committee of Wicklow a resolution, in which it is stated that the present method of fining the parents or guardians is ineffective, and in many cases unjust; and whether he is aware that some dispensary medical officers refuse to give certificates without fee of a child's inability to attend school on account of illness, and whether such demand for fees is legal; and, if so, whether he would propose some measure whereby the attendance of children at school would be secured without expense to the parents.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The reply to the first paragraph of the question is in the affirmative. I understand certain dispensary doctors have, in some instances, refused to give certificates without

receiving fees. I am advised that their action in this respect is not illegal, but the parents are entitled to prove the fact of the illness of the child by any other evidence they can produce. I am not prepared to give an answer to the concluding portion of the second paragraph without further consideration.

WICKLOW HARBOUR LOANS.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland is he aware that when a loan of money was required to improve the harbour of Wicklow, the loan was granted on condition that the baronies of Arklow, North Ballinacor, South Ballinacor, and Newcastle should join in a guarantee to secure repayment of the loan; and that, in consideration of this guarantee, the aforesigned baronies were given a representation on the Wicklow Harbour Board of eight members; and will he explain on what grounds that representation has been reduced from eight to two members.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The baronies liable for repayment of the loan due in respect of the improvement of Wicklow Harbour are five in number, namely, the four mentioned in the question and the barony of Shillelagh, which is not mentioned, and these five baronies had formerly ten representatives on the Harbour Board. By virtue of the Local Government Act of last year, the representation of the five baronies was transferred to the three rural districts of Rathdrum, Shillelagh, and Baltinglass No. 1, which comprise the guaranteeing baronies. Under the adaptations contained in Articles 3 and 44 of the Adaptation of Enactments Order of 30th January, 1899, made under Section 105 of the Act, the number of representatives from each district council became two. Hence the baronies will, in future, have six representatives on the Harbour Board instead of ten as previously.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—SCOTTISH SUPPLY.

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will give an early place to the Fishery Board Vote amongst the Scotch Estimates to be considered on Friday.

MR. J. P. SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick): Will the right hon. Gentleman

put the Vote for the Secretary for Scotland in a prominent place, as important questions of administrations will be raised?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): As at present advised I think it will be convenient to put the Vote for the Secretary for Scotland first on Friday, the remainder of the Education Vote second, and the Fisheries Vote third, but that arrangement may be regarded as subject to any possible alteration, if I have reason to believe that any large section of Scottish Members desire a different arrangement.

SIR C. CAMERON: Do not a great number of Scotch Members wish different Votes brought on first? In that case, would not the simpler plan be to take the Votes in their consecutive order?

(No answer was given.)

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL. Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

*THE CHAIRMAN: The first Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for West Carnarvon turns on another Amendment on which it can be better discussed. The second is out of order; the subject matter of the third has already been settled; the fourth is beyond the scope of the Bill; and the fifth should come in the definition clause. The Amendment of the hon. Member for Flint Boroughs should be raised as a new clause at the end of the Bill, while with regard to the Amendments of the hon. Member for Mid-Glamorgan the first should come in the definition clause; the second has been settled, and I call on him to move the third.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan, Mid.): On a point of order, the last words put from the Chair last night were "attached to." May I suggest that my Amendment to insert after the word "benefice" words "at the date of the passing of the Act," could be more conveniently taken now than the one you have called on me to move.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) : There certainly was an understanding last night that my Amendment should be preserved.

*THE CHAIRMAN : I know nothing of any such understanding. The question settled last night turned on the matter of time. I cannot take the hon. Member's Amendment out of its place. It is at the bottom of the next page, and I cannot jump it over the others. It will be taken in its proper order. I must ask the hon. Member for Mid Glamorgan to move the third of his Amendments.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS : Very well, Sir. I now propose to move to insert after "benefice" the words "to which such owner may be presented after the passing of the Act." The reason for this is pretty obvious, and the Amendment therefore requires no lengthened explanation. The present owners of tithe rent-charge attached to benefices took the benefices with full knowledge of what the case was. We have been told that since 1883 the income derivable from tithe rent-charge attached to benefices has been going steadily down in common with other agricultural values. If that was so nobody who was presented to a living after 1883 and up to the present time was presented to that living with any of the facts left in darkness. He must have been well aware of the condition of things. It is said that tithe rent-charge has fallen from par value to £67. That is true, but any incumbent presented to a living last year knew at the time what income he was to expect, and what was the exact value of the tithe, as well as what deductions it would be subjected to. He knew, in fact, how much he would receive for the performance of divine service. If he were content to be inducted on those conditions and to undertake the obligations of the position, he has now no right whatever to complain. I propose by the insertion of these words that if it is a question of altering the rating law, as was suggested yesterday, the law should be altered as from the present time, and that those who accepted their benefices under the old law, having no reason to complain, should be excluded from the operation of the Bill. I am aware that one result of the carrying of the Amendment would be that those clergymen who have been complaining of reduced incomes during the last ten or fifteen years will not benefit at all, but that is no valid reason against the

Amendment if the Bill is put merely on the ground of justice.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'benefice,' to insert the words 'to which such owner may be presented after the passing of this Act.'"
—(Mr. Samuel Evans.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby) : This Amendment strikes me, I confess, as one of the most remarkable of many remarkable Amendments. Here is a suggestion that any alteration we may make in the incidence of tithe rent-charge shall apply only to owners inducted after the passing of the Act, and it is supported on the ground that the gentlemen now in occupation accepted their benefices with a full knowledge of the responsibilities and liabilities attached thereto. The hon. Member quoted the case of an incumbent presented last year. I am bound to say I think that of all incumbents entitled to expect that this burden would be removed one very recently presented would have the prior claim. And why? For a long time the only political party which gave any cordial support to the proposals for a reform of local taxation was the party sitting on these benches; but a great change has come over the scene within the last few months. Hon. Gentlemen opposite have recently declared that the injustice of the clergy's position is intolerable and ought to be removed. (Opposition cries of "No.") Hon. Gentlemen say "No," but the Committee will remember that in the earlier part of the session the leader of the Opposition, on a Debate dealing with old-age pensions, twitted the Government with non-fulfilment of their promises, and based the charges on a circular issued by a political association of Birmingham. The right hon. Gentleman held that this circular had been issued in the name of our Party—the Unionist Party.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) : I beg to correct the right hon. Gentleman. It was the Liberal Unionist Party.

MR. LONG: It is unnecessary to distinguish between the two—the Liberal Unionist and the Conservative Party—where the responsibility for promises made by either section of the party is concerned. For my part I will not attempt to evade the responsibility undertaken by the circular because it was issued by a section of the Unionist party. But the right hon. Gentleman blamed the Government for not having redeemed their promise after this circular had been issued. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and, therefore, the Government are entitled to remind the right hon. Gentleman that when his party thought that political advantage was to be gained, and votes to be obtained, they were not ashamed to issue a circular calling attention to the injustice of the position of the tithe-owning clergy, and stating categorically that they were unfairly assessed upon their house and tithe rent-charge, and that the grievance ought to be remedied. They not only made abstract references to the position of the tithe-owning clergy, but they invited the electors to vote against the supporter of the Government, because the Government had not carried out their promises on this subject. A recent presentee, therefore, would be rather more than less entitled to expect that this grievance would be redressed, because the grievance had been taken up by not one party but by both. How would it be if this argument of the hon. Member were made generally applicable? Suppose it had been applied at the time of the passing of the Workmen's Compensation Act. Surely such a limitation as that proposed by the hon. Member would be a bar to all reform. The change to be effected by the Bill ought to apply equally to incumbents presented before and after the passing of the Bill. Under these circumstances I maintain that no justification whatever has been shown by the hon. and learned Member for his Amendment, and I hope the Committee will reject it as one which, if carried, would inflict injustice and do injury to the measure we ask the House to pass.

SIR H. CAMPBELL BANNERMAN: The right hon. Gentleman has shown the way to get on with the Bill in Committee. It is a nice beginning of a quiet evening

to be devoted to discussing the intricate details of this short Bill. I do not know what gadfly has stung the right hon. Gentleman; but suddenly he seems to have lost his balance. The speech which the right hon. Gentleman has made was, I should have thought, "more suitable to the hustings." I sat in momentary expectation of the right hon. Gentleman being called to order, when the right hon. Gentleman introduced the well-known Liberal Unionist leaflet on the subject of old-age pensions. I do not know at all how the right hon. Gentleman got it in, but the more he reminds us of it the better we shall be pleased. What it has to do with the Amendment I have not the slightest idea; but it was at least a solemn declaration and promise made by a regularly constituted party organisation in the Midlands. And when we find that the action of the Government—in the framing of whose policy that section of the Ministerial party which issued the leaflet has evidently a predominant share—is not in accordance with the promise, it is only reasonable to call attention to the fact. Against that the right hon. Gentleman says that some declarations or promises have been made by Members of this party on this subject. If any promise has been made by any member of the Opposition on this subject it has been redeemed. My hon. friend who, in the excitement of a by-election in some remote village, gave that promise with all the simplicity of Parliamentary youth, has redeemed his promise like a man. The cases will be more comparable when the Government have redeemed their promises. Last night, during a long and, as we thought on this side, patiently conducted discussion, the right hon. Gentleman displayed all the qualities which the Minister in charge of a Bill ought to display. The right hon. Gentleman was reasonable and good-humoured, and he showed a great mastery of his subject. Until ten minutes ago I was preparing the phrases with which I should, if this Bill ever passed through Committee, express my admiration of the manner in which the right hon. Gentleman had conducted it. But the web which I have been weaving has been dispelled by the right hon. Gentleman's extraordinary ebullition. Having risen merely to express my amazement, I will now leave the subject, because this is only an interlude totally disconnected with the Bill.

itself, or with the particular Amendment before the Committee.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract): Every one who has any knowledge of the subject knows how, before a clergyman accepts a living, he carefully weighs out every possible item of income and expenditure, and therefore I cannot understand the grounds of the right hon. Gentleman's objection to this Amendment. Last autumn, when hon. and right hon. Gentlemen were speaking in the country we heard very little about this particular Bill, neither was it mentioned in the Queen's Speech; therefore, any clergyman who accepted a benefice six months ago could not have had an inkling of the intention of the Government to pass it before the end of this session. It seems to me that a clergyman who accepts a benefice with certain tithes and liabilities attached is in the same position as a man who purchases an estate liable to land tax. He knows the exact amount of the land tax, and makes allowance for it when fixing the price he is willing to give. As to the comparison which the right hon. Gentleman drew with the Workmen's Compensation Act, does he forget that the workmen are engaged on a weekly wage? I very much regret the tone of the right hon. Gentleman's speech. The Opposition appear to be moving Amendments in vain, the Government having apparently determined to pass the Bill as it stands, so as to avoid having to devote two or three days to the Report Stage.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I think we have a right to complain of the tone of the speeches opposite with regard to my right hon. friend. Nothing could be more mild or conciliatory than his speeches, and they could not be shorter. His first speech on the Bill only lasted ten minutes. The arguments of my right hon. friend are such as should be addressed to moderate and reasonable men, and if to-day he has departed from the judicial tone previously adopted the reason is to be found in the attitude of hon. Members opposite. Their Amendments are so dull and are so rarely in order that it is perfectly allowable for the right hon. Gentleman to introduce old-age pensions by way of enlivening the debate.

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Moreover, it was not so irrelevant, as the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition suggests, to deal with the Liberal Unionists. We have been warned by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bodmin that we shall, as a result of the introduction of this Bill, have to dispense with the support of Liberal Unionists. I now come to the Amendment. I do beg hon. Gentlemen opposite to meet the Government on the ground they have chosen for the Bill. The ground on which the Bill is presented is neither charity nor mercy. We are not arguing, although we might do so with the greatest possible effect, that the clergyman is poor and has a salary inadequate to the work he is called upon to do. We claim nothing in charity, and no compassionate allowance for the clergy. The ground on which the Bill is defended is that of justice, and hon. Members should put aside the notion that the Government are anxious to make grants of money to their own friends. Just see how this Amendment will act. The Bill proposes to relieve clergymen of the payment of half of their rates. I do complain of the description given of this Bill. It is described as a Bill for altering the system of rating. It is nothing of the kind, for that leaves it where it was; it is only to provide that one-half of the rates shall be paid under certain circumstances. The Amendment proposes that the alleviation represented by this deduction of one half shall only be given to clergymen who are inducted after the passage of this Act. Where does the justice of that come in? Surely an injustice is not reduced by the fact that a man has borne it ten or fifteen years. Is it not rather the greater? Of course I can quite understand that if hon. Members hold the view that this Bill is brought forward on the grounds of charity they would desire to make the burden on the ratepayers as small as possible. But that is where we cannot follow them. We repudiate the idea that this Bill is based on charity or mercy. We stand solely on the ground of justice, and, if hon. Members will only view the Amendment from that standpoint, I think they will see that it is not defensible. Further, if, in their future treatment of the Bill, they will follow the same principle, I think we shall have fewer Amendments brought forward. On the ground of justice this Amendment is absurd. It would give least where most is required.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I am surprised that the hon. Member who last spoke fails to appreciate the grounds upon which this Amendment has been moved and is supported. We support it on the ground of the sanctity of contract. The Conservative party, in past times, were the defenders and upholders of sanctity of contract. Here we have a contract solemnly entered into by a large number of men who, from their very training and education, one would presume to understand what was the nature of the contract they were making with the institution they were preparing to serve. They freely entered into it; they were under no coercion, and they accepted their post with their eyes open, and with a full knowledge of all the conditions attaching to it. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill seems to have neglected all opportunities of informing himself of the arguments upon which he has been relying for similes in connection with this Bill. He referred to the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897. But he does not seem to remember that a clergyman who accepts a living takes a life appointment, whereas the men who come under the Workmen's Compensation Act are engaged from week to week. Therefore there is no similarity between the two cases. Again, this Compensation Act did not make any new departure; it was only an elaboration and a further continuance of a law which was already in existence. Can he not give us a new lead in this matter, so that we can at any rate record a coherent vote? I entirely repudiate the argument of the hon. Member for King's Lynn, in which he states that we have not made out any case for supporting this Amendment. I say that our grounds are perfectly clear and intelligent. Our contention is that this contract was entered into by clergymen of the Church of England under well defined conditions. Now they are seeking, by the aid of a Conservative Government, to break the contract in order to obtain better terms for themselves. It is evident that my hon. friends who support this Amendment constitute the true Conservative party, because they wish to maintain the sanctity of contract, a principle which Conservatives have always held themselves out to be the upholders of. Unfortunately since their association with certain gentlemen they have been surrendering many well-

known principles for others which will not last them so long as they imagine.

MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, E.): I cannot quite understand the attitude of hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite on this Amendment. I remember some time ago how the Welsh farmers were treated when they were very much opposed, not so much, perhaps, to the payment of tithe as to its payment for the maintenance of religious principles and practices with which they did not agree. They were quite prepared to pay tithe for educational or other purposes, but they were told by the clergy in Wales that they took their farms, knowing exactly the objects for which the tithe was to be collected, that they entered into the contract well knowing what they were doing, and that it was most immoral for them, having undertaken the obligations, to wish anyone in the House of Commons to move the rescinding of them, so as to enable them to start *de novo*. A clergyman who takes a living knows exactly the amount of money he is going to receive and the amount of the rates he will have to pay, and if it were immoral in times gone by for a Welsh farmer to decline to pay tithe because he had a conscientious objection to the object to which it was devoted, it is equally immoral now for clergymen of the Church of England to come to the House of Commons and say, "The payment of this rate is a great imposition on us. The whole rating system is very unfair and unequal, and we want it altered." If the measure is one of charity I can understand it, but if it is one of justice, I say it is anything but justice. Hon. Gentlemen say when they argue against any readjustment of a contract between landlord and tenant, "Oh, you have entered into obligations with your eyes open; why should you desire an Act of Parliament to create a land court?" The inviolability of contract which hon. Gentlemen urge so freely and with a certain amount of argument in the case of the Welsh farmers should also apply to a clergyman who, with his eyes open, takes a living well knowing what he will have to pay. I support the Amendment.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon): I think the point put by my hon. friend the Member for East Denbighshire is one very well worthy of consideration. The

agitation to which he has referred was initiated not against the payment of tithe altogether, but for the purpose of obtaining a reduction in the amount because of agricultural depression. It was on all fours with the present case. The clergy ask for a reduction in the amount of their rates, the farmers asked for a reduction in the amount of their tithe. The farmers were told that they had entered into a contract to pay the whole amount, and that is exactly the answer that should be given to the clergy. They also entered into a contract, and they must abide by it. That is the measure they meted out to the Welsh farmers, and the same measure should be extended to themselves. This is the answer we get whenever we ask for any reform of local taxation, especially in towns. We had a witness before this identical Commission, and he was a witness who will probably give very important evidence against this Bill in the course of the next forty-eight hours. I refer to Mr. B. F. C. Costelloe. He was giving evidence before the Commission in favour of the taxation of ground rents, and what was the answer given by the Chairman of the Commission, who throughout showed, I will not say his bias, but that he was favourable to the case of the clergy? When Mr. Costelloe put the case of a shopkeeper who had to pay a heavy ground rent to a person who did not contribute a penny in local taxation, the Chairman asked this question: "With regard to the actual and not the apparent incidence of rates, would you say, speaking generally, that when the owner of a site leases it, the lessee takes into account the amount of the rates in fixing the rent he pays?" The point here is that the clergy knew perfectly well the amount of the rates they would have to pay. It is rather curious that the sanctity of contract is good enough for the Welsh farmer or the shopkeeper, but is not good enough for the clergy, who have to teach these men their duty to the State and to each other. There was another witness who gave evidence before the Commission. He was the only lay witness except the hon. Member for Tunbridge examined in support of the case of the clergy. He was a lawyer—Mr. Cassell, Q.C. But even he could not carry the case quite as far as was expected. He was questioned as to what he thought about the incidence of tithe, and he was also asked when a clergyman

entered a benefice did he not know perfectly well the amount of rates imposed on it, and Mr. Cassell answered that he did. Then the following question was put to him: "Is it equitable that, having got the living on these terms, he should try and shift the burden?" He asked, "Do you mean if he accepted the living on these terms?" The Chairman said "Yes," and then Mr. Cassell replied: "I cannot say that in that case he is in a better position than a man who has purchased tithe." That was the answer given to a specific question. On what ground then can it be argued that this Bill ought to have retrospective effect? The same question was put to Mr. MacPherson, who represented the tithe-owners. He said it was perfectly true that a clergyman knew the amount of the rates when he took a benefice, but that he had no option. That is an absurd answer. It is the only answer that can be made, but it is perfectly ridiculous. A clergyman has an option. He can refuse a benefice. Before he accepts it he scrutinises very carefully the amount of the tithe, the amount to be paid for a curate, and the amount of the voluntary contribution. The amount of the income is ascertained with the strictest accuracy, and if it does not suit his ideas of what he ought to receive he invariably refuses. He is in the same position as the member of any other profession, be it that of a civil servant, doctor, or schoolmaster. A schoolmaster who is offered a position carefully examines the amount of the salary, the standard of life in the locality, and what the rents are; and he looks into all these questions from his own personal point of view. Has a clergyman less worldly wisdom in this respect than a schoolmaster? I do not think that anyone who has had anything to do with the clergy will say that. The evidence before the Commission showed that they were perfectly alive to every point in their own favour. There is another point connected with this Amendment, and which is well worthy the attention of the Committee. These gentlemen accepted these livings knowing perfectly well the amount of the tithe, but since they entered them certain modifications have already been made. What has happened? Half the rates on glebe have been paid for the last three or four years, and the land tax has been reduced from 4s. to 1s. A still more

important modification was extended to the clergy by another Conservative Government, an indulgence which represents a considerable amount of money, and also the removal of a considerable amount of difficulty, annoyance, and irritation. The collection of the tithe has been transferred entirely from the clergy to the landlords, and instead of being collected from 200 or 300 ratepayers, sometimes in sums of sixpence and a shilling, and having to pay heavy commissions, the clergy have now only to send in their bill to a couple of squires, and they receive a cheque for the amount. Here are three important modifications in the position of the clergy, and they are now asking to be relieved of another 50 per cent. That is a position which this House ought not to sanction. No case has been made out for it. The hon. Member for King's Lynn opposed this Amendment, though I could not help thinking that he did it with his tongue in his cheek. He did it rather scornfully. He said that this is simply a grievance in the matter of rates, and has nothing whatever to do with contracts. But the hon. Member forgets that the Poor Rate on tithe is not in the same position as an ordinary rate on property. It is a traditional burden. The burden of maintaining the poor which has been imposed on tithe is as old as tithe itself. I am not sure it is not the first burden. Tithe was imposed in the first instance for the purpose of maintaining the poor, and therefore the clergy are now attempting to repudiate a contract of very ancient and sacred origin, and are trying to revolutionise one of the finest traditions of their own Church. The Church took upon itself the burden of maintaining those who could not maintain themselves, though subsequently that tradition was not upheld. But still that is the position. They are endeavouring to rid themselves of the obligations they contracted to undertake, and to upset the traditions of their own Church in every respect. I observe that the privileged classes are the favourites of hon. Members opposite, and that they are very fond of professing Conservative principles when they come to be applied to the working classes and to shopkeepers. But any Conservative principle or institution, however old it may be, however respected, however sacred, which interferes in the slightest degree with their own incomes must go in spite of sanctity of

contract, traditions of the Church, maintenance of the poor, or any other magnificent purpose.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): I wish to support the Amendment. I have had to do with a great many of my clergyman friends who have taken other livings, and I have always found that the rates were allowed for and the net results worked out. I am perfectly certain that a great many of the clergy of the Church of England would repudiate—and I, on their behalf, repudiate—the position taken up for them by those who profess to be the friends of the Church in this House. The right hon. Gentleman said that it is quite true that the clergymen accepted these contracts, but that you may push the severity of contract too far; that you must remember that these contracts were taken by clergymen in the expectation that the rates would be reduced, and that that expectation was part of the contract. Now I ask what is the evidence of that expectation? Of course this House is not responsible for what political parties may do or say, but the right hon. Gentleman has given us no proof of such expectation. The only responsible Minister who has hitherto spoken—the Chancellor of the Exchequer—distinctly discouraged that expectation. When the hon. Member for King's Lynn asks us to discuss this question as a matter of business and justice, we say that we are ready to consider this particular of expectation on these lines, but we want evidence of it and the hon. Gentleman gives us no evidence whatever. From my own personal experience I have never heard of a single clergyman who said that he expected the rates to be reduced, or that he, for one moment, took that into consideration in accepting a living. I am quite certain that there is not a class of men who are more willing to stand by their contracts than the clergy of the Church of England, and I am sure they will repudiate the position which has been taken up for them by the right hon. Gentleman.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): The hon. Member for King's Lynn has explained that the object of the right hon. Gentleman is to impart a little liveliness into our discussion. I have no objection to this, but surely justice illustrated with liveliness will not add to the

merits of this Bill. We expect great liveliness from the right hon. Gentleman, but in my opinion we ought to be more grateful for the arguments which he has addressed to this House, for these are arguments which ought to be remembered. If there is anything in public opinion, according to my observation, it is an interest in the principles upon which in future rating and taxation should be conducted. There are some who hold that there are instances of people who are too heavily taxed; but there is a strong opinion in the country that there are a great many people too lightly taxed. The arguments we have heard from the Treasury Bench are very important in this respect. I have heard the opinion, which I share myself, that, for instance, ground landlords should be taxed or rated more heavily than they are at present. But what is the argument we are always met with by hon. Gentlemen opposite? It is this, that there is a contract between the ground landlord and the leaseholder; that it is a sacred contract which you cannot alter; that it has been made for ninety-nine years or some period. But it cannot be said that that contract was made by Statute, as this arrangement was made by Statute at the time of the Commutation, when it was settled between the ratepayers of the country and the tithe-owners. It was founded on Statute, and has been described so, accurately. Very well, you say we are at liberty to alter that arrangement altogether, but that does not apply only to this one thing, but to a great many other things. I rise for the special purpose of noting the importance of the principle which is objected to, as I understand it, by the hon. Member for King's Lynn, who belongs to one section of the Unionist Party, and does not seem to have a very high opinion of the other section. How the right hon. Gentleman who professes to represent both sections manages to reconcile his opinions on this subject with the opinions so frequently expressed on other and more important subjects of rating and taxation, he has not explained. I would be very glad to hear from his mouth what are his views generally in reference to the principles of taxation and rating which are to be applied to landlords and ground landlords in every matter, and whether he is prepared to accept the principles of this Bill when

applied to questions which are of a much wider scope, and, in my opinion, founded on sounder justice. Now, the extraordinary manner in which the Government are proceeding in this matter appears on the face of the Bill in this clause. It is said that the system of rating is an injustice to the clergy, and therefore we ought to alter it. The importance of that is that the owners of tithe rent-charge are to be liable only to half the amount of any rate to which this Act applies. But if your views are correct, what you ought to have done should have been only to assess them at half the rate. That, however, you shy from. Why not take the natural and logical consequence of those principles which you have adopted in assessing the clergy at only half rates? I will tell you why. You do not dare, in the face of the Commutation Act. That was a settlement that the clergy should be assessed on the whole of the rates like anybody else. And, therefore, this extraordinary proceeding is taken to continue to assess a man to the whole of the rates, which you say it is unjust that he should pay, but that he should only pay the half of them, while you make other people pay the other half. What is the meaning of this "circumbendibus" kind of legislation?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I think the right hon. Gentleman is anticipating an Amendment lower down on the Paper which will raise exactly the question he is now discussing.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: One never knows, Sir, what Amendments lower down on the Paper will be allowed to be put.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Every Amendment which is in order I shall allow to be put. I do not understand what the right hon. Gentleman means.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: I had not intended to imply, nor do I think I have said anything which does imply, any disrespect to your authority; but until you have pronounced an Amendment is in order, I have no means of knowing whether it will be in order or not. The reason why I think I was under a misconception on this subject was that the words to which I was alluding had already passed the Com-

mittee ; and therefore that is the reason why I spoke of it. I did not anticipate that an Amendment afterwards would affect the words already passed by the Committee. I was in error apparently. I desire that we should have explained to us exactly the principle on which this question of the payments of rates is to be founded—not assessing upon the half, but assessing upon the whole, and then providing for repayment of the half. If that is not in order, I hope you will kindly inform me when that question should be raised. It seems to me a very important one. If the Chairman will kindly inform me what is the Amendment which, he rules, excludes me from referring to this subject at the present time—

*THE CHAIRMAN : The whole of this discussion is really not relevant to the Amendment now before the Committee. The Amendment now before the Committee is that this Bill is not to be made applicable to those clergy who are at present the holders of benefices. The proposal is that it shall only apply to future holders of benefices. Therefore the argument of the right hon. Gentleman is really beside the mark of the Amendment now before the Committee.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT : I misunderstood your ruling. I thought your ruling was dependent upon a subsequent Amendment which raised the question. Of course I will not proceed with an argument you have ruled out of order, and therefore I cannot continue this discussion with advantage. At the same time I have only to say that the arguments used on this side of the House have not been answered.

*MR. GILES (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech) : I should like to say a few words upon this question. I do not think we are at all likely on this side of the House to be accused of doing anything to violate the sanctity of the doctrine of contract. But there is another doctrine also to be considered in relation to this question, and that is what was in the contemplation of the parties at the time the contract was entered into. Now, there is an important Act of Parliament to which it is worth calling the attention of the Committee, and which has not been referred to up to the present moment. I was somewhat surprised to hear the right hon. Member for Wolverhampton say that

Sir William Harcourt.

the law at the present time is exactly as it was at the time of the passing of the Tithe Commutation Act, because I think that is a great mis-statement. At the time of the passing of the Tithe Commutation Act, undoubtedly all personal property was liable to rate, and it was not until the Act of 3 and 4 Victoria c. 89 was passed that personal property was not exempted from rates. If personal property was still liable the amount in the pound of all rates would probably be less than half what it is, especially in towns. Since the passing of the Commutation Act, a very large number of rates which were certainly not in contemplation at that time have been enacted and exacted from the tithe rent-charge. From recollection I will refer to a few. Certainly in urban districts there would be the lighting and library rates, the scavenging rates, the pavement rates, and a large number of similar rates, and in many districts, both urban and rural, there would be a heavy school board rate, which, of course, was not in existence at the time of the Tithe Commutation Act. Then I may also refer to the large increase of the highway rate, because, of course, although undoubtedly at the time the Tithe Commutation Act was passed tithes were assessed to the highway rate, yet it was not until 1872 that a very large addition to highway rates was made in consequence of the abolition of turnpikes. In many respects, therefore, the sanctity of the contract has been affected. At the present time the tithe-owners have to pay a very large number of rates which they did not pay in 1836, and which I cannot conceive to have been in contemplation, because it would have been impossible for them to have known that these rates would have been passed. I have not heard one argument raised on the other side of the House that anything was added in the amount arranged between the tithe-payers and the tithe-owners which would enable tithe-owners to pay rates in the future.

MR. MCKENNA (Monmouth, N.) : The hon. Gentleman who has just spoken has made a very interesting contribution to the Debate. The point, however, is that the contract, or *quasi-contract*, behind which the clergy wish to go is the contract made by the present owner of the benefice, when he took the living, to do certain work for certain remuneration

in tithe after the deduction of the rates. His argument has no particular reference to another contract, viz., the contract entered into at the time of the Commutation Act. As a matter of fact the contract with the tithe-owner has not been touched upon, and, I have not a shadow of doubt, will not be touched upon by anybody on the opposite side of the House. What is the pretence for the opposition to this Amendment? It is —to put it very shortly—that on grounds of reason and equity the tithe-owners are entitled to make certain deductions for the purpose of assessment. If that is so, why in Heaven's name do not the Government introduce a Bill carrying out that principle? But what would be the effect?

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is now discussing an Amendment which he himself has put on the Paper, and which may be reached in due time.

MR. MCKENNA: I am bound to say that your ruling is absolutely in accordance with the facts, but I regret that no other argument is ever raised in opposition to this Amendment except those which are opposed to the principle of the Bill. I was only going to point out, without arguing the merits of any particular Amendment, that the principle on which this Bill is alleged to be based is not carried out in the Bill itself. I will only say, with regard to this particular Amendment, that it has two advantages. First of all, it limits the amount of money that you take under this measure, and, so far, it would have my support. But there is another reason why this Amendment should be supported. If you give this special advantage to future incumbents, you offer more persons a pecuniary temptation to become clergymen than you can now. You will consequently get, as an hon. friend reminds me, better clergymen in the future if you are able to pay a higher price. We have seen, in the controversy which was raised between Board schools and Voluntary schools, how much has turned upon the question that the Board schools, having more money at their control, are able to get better masters than the Voluntary schools. Exactly the same argument applies in the case of the Church. If you can pay your clergyman in the future

more than in the past you will be able to get a better class of men to serve, and upon that ground there may be something said in support of the Bill. But you cannot defend the Bill as it stands now. It is entirely contrary to every principle put forward by hon. Members on the other side of the House.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): The hon. Member for Wisbech has endeavoured to bring this discussion back to the conditions which existed in 1836. I should imagine that everyone would be very sorry indeed to bring back the conditions of 1836. In that year the rates were taken to average something like 5s. in the £—equal to an average on the commuted tithe rent-charge of £602,000 a year instead of only £175,000, which they now pay. Therefore the clergymen are getting a very considerable advantage through the great reduction of the rates. The hon. Member in his very interesting speech complained that new rates were constantly being put upon the clergy, and that therefore it was unfair for them to bear them. I quite admit that if new rates were imposed there might be some injustice to the existing tithe-owner, but there could be no injustice to the future one who took his benefice with his eyes open and knew what rates there were to pay. This Act does not refer to "new" rates. It only refers to "one half of the amount of any rate to which this Act applies," and on looking at the definition clause I find this provision:

"This Act shall apply to every rate as defined by Section 9 of the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896."

Well, the Agricultural Rates Act of 1896 was one of those measures which does not apply to the newest rates. There was the Parish Councils Bill. Of course, that placed some charge upon the parishes, but the Agricultural Rates Act did not affect that. If this Bill be based upon justice, why do you exclude the extra expenses placed on a parish, through the operations of the councils, from this Bill? We were told by my hon. friend behind me, the hon. Member for Bolton, who knows a good deal about the clergy, that the clergy entered into these transactions in a public and business-like spirit. It does seem that we have been experiencing in these matters too much business and

too little sense of the high office of the clergyman. We do not admit that they have any cause to complain in this matter. When the farmers complained of paying tithes the right hon. Gentleman passed the Tithe Rating Act of 1891, and placed the burden of the tithes on the shoulders of the landlords, and now he wishes to place a new rate on the shoulders of the general tax-payers of the country. One argument has not been mentioned in this Debate, and that is that it would lead, if this Amendment is accepted, to advantageous results. It would result in a change of clergymen in many parishes, and I think in many of the rural parishes they would welcome such a change. I command that to the right hon. Gentleman, and I regret that he will not accept this Amendment.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich): As I understand the Amendment, it limits the operation of the Act to those who take benefices after it is passed, and, as I understand the right hon. Gentleman, it will be unjust to do that. I wish to know where that injustice lies. In a parish in my own neighbourhood, in Suffolk, I find that in 1836 the tithes of this parish were £315, and the rates £66, the total being £381. Those tithes were commuted at £400, which was an increase of £18. Taking the figures down to the present day the value of the tithes which were commuted at £400 is now £272. Certain deductions have been made which bring the amount of tithe subject to rates down to £205. Where is the injustice? The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury said it was preposterous for any clergyman to think he was to have his tithe free of rates.

***THE CHAIRMAN:** Order, order! The hon. Member is really arguing the principle of the Bill, and his speech is really a Second Reading speech. He ought to bear in mind that we have passed the Second Reading and have got to the Committee stage.

MR. GODDARD: Perhaps, Sir, I did go a little too far, but I wanted to see where the injustice came in. I shall support the Amendment.

MR. CAWLEY (Lancs., Prestwich): If I had one misgiving on coming to this House, it was that perhaps the Liberal party had not quite so much regard for

Mr. Lambert.

the sanctity of contract as I thought desirable. But after experience in the House any doubts I had were soon dispelled, for I have discovered that the Conservative Party—or the present Ministerial Party—seem to have even less regard for their contracts than the Members of my own Party in the House. I am not going into the question of commutation at all. As far as I understand things, ninety-nine per cent. of the present incumbents have got their benefices subject to their paying rates on tithes, and they have nothing to complain of. By the Agricultural Rating Act, landlords who had bought or inherited their estates subject to certain obligations to the poor have been relieved of those obligations; so now the clergy, because they have threatened to withdraw their support, are being relieved of a rate they had deliberately contracted to pay. Members on the Government side of the House are very much disturbed when private interests are touched for the benefit of the community; but when the interests of the community are being confiscated for particular classes of their supporters they give the measure their earnest support. It is not my intention to go into the question of what took place at the time of the Tithe Commutation in 1836, although it is admitted that the clergy paid much lower rates now than were allowed for at that time. What I contend is that the clergy took their livings well knowing that they had to pay rates on their tithes. Notwithstanding that these rates have decreased, the general community are now being asked to pay what the clergy have contracted to pay. It is my intention to support the Amendment of my hon. friend.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): On this occasion I shall confine myself within the limits of this Amendment. I wish to present one or two considerations in favour of it. I think it will be admitted that one of the reasons for this Amendment is that undoubtedly by the Agricultural Rating Act of 1896 a great difference was made to the clergy of this country. The main reason why I support the Amendment is this: I do not think, in dealing with this Bill, there has been sufficient consideration given to the fact that the value of the tithes of this country have been commuted largely in excess of their net value. What was the posi-

tion as regards the value of tithe during the ten years from 1874 to 1883? In 1874 it stood at 112; in 1883 it came down to par value, and from 1883 onwards it has steadily declined. It is obvious that during a series of years tithe-owners have lost considerably through the decline in the value of tithe, but it is equally obvious that, during a large number of years, they were the gainers through the tithe being very much above par value. I think, if an average is fairly struck, it will be seen that they should not participate in the advantages of this measure.

MR. BILLSON (Halifax): There is no doubt that every clergyman who takes a living is perfectly well aware of what he is going to get as the net result of the provision made for him. When clergymen have bought advowsons and presented themselves to the livings, it has been a matter of close calculation as to what was the amount of rates and what price was to be paid, in order to obtain a fair return for the money. The effect of this Bill will be to increase the price of an advowson by £500 or £600, and whatever else the Bill does it will add about £3,000,000 to the capital value of the advowsons of the country. If this Bill was intended by the Government to remedy any injustice that actually prevails or is likely to prevail, it would be very much benefited by the Amendment before the Committee.

MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): My reason for supporting the Amendment is that it curtails the mischief this Bill will do. But there is one rather strong argument which perhaps the Amendment ought to be altered to meet, and that is that the people existing now will have the same knowledge of this Act as the people existing in the future. A clergyman on the point of taking a living will know what its value will be with half the rates taken off; he knows what the additional value will be, and he is likely to take a thing which he would not otherwise take. Therefore, this Amendment should not only include benefices "to which such owner may be presented after the passing of this Act," but also benefices "to which such owner has been presented within six months before the passing of this Act," so as to include all these people who are now thinking about taking benefices which will benefit by this Act.

The man who takes a benefice is in the same position as the man who buys an annuity. If the rates are raised and his portion of the tithe suffers, he is in exactly the same position as an annuitant who bought an annuity of say £1,000 a year when the income-tax was 5d., and who now has to pay 8d. The annuitant does not go to the assurance company and expect to be paid more in order to make up the difference caused by the increased tax, nor does the country expect to be called upon to pay the difference. The clergyman is in precisely the same position. It has been argued that all sorts of fresh burdens were put upon these wretched people—that fresh rates were put on. But they are treated in the same way as agricultural land is treated, and they only pay one quarter of those new rates. Moreover, in agricultural districts the rates have not increased, while in towns, where they are rather more heavily rated, there is the compensating advantage of large paying congregations. It can no longer be pleaded that justice is the foundation of this Bill. From our point of view, injustice is the basis of the whole thing. It may be that the clergy should have an eleemosynary grant, but a general injustice cannot be called a principle of justice, and I shall support the Amendment.

MR. McLAREN (Leicestershire, Bosworth): Whatever the House may think of this Bill, there is no doubt that if passed as it stands it will go to the country as a very unpopular measure. It will be much more easy to persuade the inhabitants of the country districts that this is an unjust measure than to persuade them that it is a measure which justice demands. When you go and tell the farmer, the butcher, and the baker that you are going to relieve the parson of half his rates, you will certainly set up a feeling of irritation which must be injurious to the influence of the Church. There is nothing people are so sensitive about as any little alteration in rates. If you put up the rating of a factory, or reduce the rating of a public house, or do anything which they imagine alters the existing state of things, it gives rise to discontent, and representations are made in all quarters about the matter. You are really touching a very sore point. You have got the parson, who may be a very good, religious man, but he is not alto-

gether popular as a politician in the district. It seems to me there is nothing that would be more dangerous to the office of a clergyman than to let the inhabitants feel that he has scored a point at their expense. This Bill may be a just or an unjust measure, but I venture to submit that if the Government would accept this Amendment—for the Bill is to operate only as an experiment for two years in order to lay down the principle that half-rates are to be paid—the measure would then not be so objectionable.

*MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth): There is one argument which I do not think has yet been placed before the House in favour of this Amendment, and it is this: I feel confident that, notwithstanding the silence of so many hon. Members opposite, there must be an enormous number of clergy connected with the Established Church of this country who must feel as they read the accounts of the discussions in this House, and the proposals made by the Government for their relief, a sense of deep humiliation. I do not, unlike my hon. friend who has just sat down, worship at the shrines of the Established Church, but I have never felt the slightest possible antagonism to the clergy of that Church as ministers of religion. It is perfectly manifest that this Amendment if passed will greatly reduce the number of recipients of the bounty of the Government. It is, I think, a degrading position for the clergy of this great Establishment to come knocking like mendicants at the door of this House. If this Amendment be passed it will reduce the number of recipients of this bounty or Parliamentary grant, which is founded, we are told, upon justice, although nobody will explain why the spirit of justice is to entirely disappear in a couple of years' time. If this is a just grant, why do the Government mean to stop it in two years? It can only be upon one assumption, and that is that they do not anticipate being in office then. If this grant be a just one, and these men are right, their claim will be as just in ten years' as in two years' time. But there is another reason why this relief should not be given, and it is this, that the tithes are placed upon a basis of greater security by the collection of tithes through the

agency of the land-owner. Does any reasonable man in this House suppose that if the clergyman to day had to go and take one-tenth of the pails of milk, one-tenth of the lambs from the flock, one-tenth of the sheep from the fold, and one-tenth of the produce of the orchard, that such tithes would be leviable to-day? They would have been rejected absolutely and utterly all through the country, and it is only because the Legislature put this tax upon a sound Parliamentary footing in the interests of the clergy in 1836, that it was collectable at all, and later on they were relieved of the ignominious process of distress. Therefore we have abundant reason for differentiating between the clergy in possession of the tithe at the present moment and those whom it is proposed to limit by the scope of this Amendment which I support.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): My right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition very rightly called attention to the extraordinary speech made by the Minister for Agriculture. Like the right hon. Gentleman, I deplore the obstructive tactics and the opposition of the Minister for Agriculture.

MR. LONG: What! obstruction!

MR. LABOUCHERE: Yes, opposition to what is right.

AN HON. MEMBER: In what way?

MR. LABOUCHERE: Why, the opposition to us. Why did the right hon. Gentleman make that speech? Simply because at the time he had not got his men up and had not got his majority at hand to vote us down as upon ordinary occasions. Therefore, he threw bones of contention at this House which had absolutely nothing to do with the Bill. But we do not follow the course suggested by the right hon. Gentleman. We have stood solidly to arguments, and sound and potent arguments, in regard to the Amendment which is before the House. But of what use are our arguments? How many right hon. Gentlemen and hon. Gentlemen opposite will answer them? Why, there are very few hon. Gentlemen who will even condescend to listen to us. One hon. Gentleman after another has got up on this side of the House and submitted some new argument. I myself know fifty new arguments, every

Mr. McLaren.

one of which would utterly smash and destroy the position taken up by the Government, but I am not going to throw them away upon gentlemen who do not appreciate them, for it would be casting pearls before—hon. Gentlemen opposite. When a Minister brings in a Bill he generally allows a little margin for slight concessions to his opponents, and in that way a Bill is got through easily and quietly in this House. But the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Agriculture is sticking to the letter of the rules of the House, and he is violating the spirit of the rules of the House. There are surely some of these Amendments which are reasonable, and some concessions ought to be made. No Bill comes into this House perfect, and important changes are often made. Why does the right hon. Gentleman not accept in a friendly spirit one or two of our Amendments? Why, simply because there is a Report stage, and the right hon. Gentleman is afraid of the Report stage. The right hon. Gentleman would not change one letter or one iota of his Bill, because if he did we should have a Report stage. Then we should submit other valuable Amendments, and support them by valuable arguments. Really, the system pursued by right hon. Gentlemen and hon. Gentlemen opposite is one of obstruction, for there is obstruction by silence as well as obstruction by speaking. We do not like to be treated in this contemptible way. The only hon. Gentleman opposite who attempts to reply to our arguments is the hon. Member for King's Lynn, and he does it in a very dubious fashion; otherwise our arguments are treated with contemptuous silence. Has the Minister for Agriculture said one word against this Amendment? My hon. friend the Member for North Monmouthshire made a very excellent speech; but has anybody replied to it? The hon. Gentleman behind me made a capital speech, and the only answer was that some hon. Member opposite spoke of the sanctity of contract, but I could not make out whether his speech was in favour of the Amendment or not. Why does the First Lord of the Treasury not make a speech? I always listen to him with the greatest admiration, and I want to have an opportunity of hearing him upon this occasion, for it is a question on which he will shine. He has a philosophical and a theological mind, and if he would take the trouble he could very

likely convince us that we are in the wrong and he is in the right. All we want is justice, and we desire to do what is best for the good of the country. If there is anything in this Bill which the right hon. Gentleman can convince us is worth having, we will stand by him. We have passed the Second Reading, and now we are asking only for reasonable concessions, which the Government refuse, and they will not even tell us why they refuse. They simply vote us down by the brutal force of numbers, and that is violating the spirit of the rules of this House.

MR. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I think there is a much better reason than the importance of the Report stage why the Government cannot give way. It is not the future owner of the benefice who sits upon the neck of the right hon. Gentleman opposite, but it is the present holder of the benefice, and it is to him that the Government have to make a sacrifice in this Bill. During the sitting of the Royal Commission I endeavoured to elicit some argument in favour of letting off from his tithes the existing holder, but I was not able to find any more arguments in its favour than I have found during the present Debate. The real opposition is that the present holder has accepted his office subject to the tithes being paid; but this claim cannot be urged and argued in favour of the present holder, but only on behalf of the corporation of the Church of England as a whole. It is that corporation which is now seeking relief from the tithes, and not the present owner of the benefice. I made, about this time last year, an extract from *The Times* from a letter by Mr. H. Macpherson, who said:—

"What our federation did in South Norfolk, we can repeat in 150 county elections."

That is a statement by a federation, not of future holders of benefices, but of present holders. Therefore it is perfectly obvious why the Government cannot accept this most reasonable Amendment.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I desire to amend the Amendment by leaving out the word "after" in order to insert the word "before." It seems to me, on all grounds of justice and expediency, that those now holding the benefices should be relieved, and not those who are presented to livings after the passing of this Act. It is perfectly obvious.

that the whole ground for the introduction of the Bill is to remove an existing injustice, and that no grievance can exist as far as a person not at present in a living is concerned. I am bound to say that I sympathise with hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite. I think they have a very strong case against this Amendment as it stands, and I can only support it on the ground that any limitation of the Bill must have my support.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I beg to move that the question be now put down to the word "only" in the clause.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: The Amendment now before the Committee must be disposed of before any motion to closure particular words can be made.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Then I move that the question be now put.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: I will accept that motion.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I desire to know, Sir, which question you intend to put.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: The original question under discussion.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: But I have moved an Amendment to the Amendment.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: I did not put the hon. Member's Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman intervened before I put the Amendment.

Question put, "That the question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 258; Noes, 160. (Division List, No. 235.)

AYES.

Aird, John	Carlile, William Walter	Drucker, A.
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden	Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Dyke, Kt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbysh.)	Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Arnold, Alfred	Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Fardell, Sir T. George
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)	Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Man.)
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzR.	Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Finch, George H.
Bailey, James (Walworth)	Chamberlain, Rt Hn.J.(Birm.)	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)	Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)	Fisher, William Hayes
Baird, John George Alexander	Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Fison, Frederick William
Baldwin, Alfred	Charrington, Spencer	FitzWigram, General Sir F.
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)	Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	Galloway, William Johnson
Banbury, Frederick George	Coddington, Sir William	Garfit, William
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Coghill, Douglas Harry	Gedge, Sydney
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)	Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole	Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Bartley, George C. T.	Compton, Lord Alwyne	Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)	Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.	Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.	Gilliat, John Saunders
Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)	Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Godson, Sir A. Frederick
Beckett, Ernest William	Cranborne, Viscount	Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Cripps, Charles Alfred	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Bethell, Commander	Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. (St. George's)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.	Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Bill, Charles	Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Goulding, Edward Alfred
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Curzon, Viscount	Graham, Henry Robert
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme	Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Gretton, John
Boulnois, Edmund	Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Gull, Sir Cameron
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)	Denny, Colonel	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Bowles, T. Gibson (Kings Lynn)	Digby, John, K.D. Wingfield	Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Brassey, Albert	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Doughty, George	Hanson, Sir Reginald
Bullard, Sir Harry	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Hardy, Laurence
Burdett-Coutts, W.	Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	Hare, Thomas Leigh
Butcher, John George	Doxford, William Theodore	Heaton, John Henniker
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J.A. (Glasgow)	Drage, Geoffrey	Helder, Augustus

Mr. D. A. Thomas.

Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter	Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.	Seely, Charles Hilton
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)	Middlemore, John T.	Seton-Karr, Henry
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstd.)	Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)	Mildmay, Francis Bingham	Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Hobhouse, Henry	Milner, Sir Frederick George	Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)	Milton, Viscount	Simeon, Sir Barrington
Hornby, Sir William Henry	Milward, Colonel Victor	Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry	Monk, Charles James	Spencer, Ernest
Howard, Joseph	Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants)	Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Howell, William Tudor	Moon, Edward Robert Pacy	Stanley, E. J. (Somerset)
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil	More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)	Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn	Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monmouthsh.)	Stanley, Lord (Lancashire)
Hudson, George Bickersteth	Morell, George Herbert	Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Morrison, Walter	Stock, James Henry
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)	Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Jenkins, Sir John Jones	Mount, William George	Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)	Muntz, Philip A. [Butte)	Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George	Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham	Thorburn, Walter
Kemp, George	Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)	Thornton, Percy M.
Kenyon, James	Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)	Tollemache, Henry James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William	Myers, William Henry	Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Knowles, Lees	Newark, Viscount	Tritton, Charles Ernest
Lafone, Alfred	Nicol, Donald Ninian	Valentia, Viscount
Laurie, Lieut-General	Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford	Wanklyn, James Leslie
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)	O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens	Ward, Hon. R. A. (Crewe)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	Pender, Sir James	Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)	Penn, John	Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Edw. H.	Percy, Earl	Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)	Pierpoint, Robert	Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Leighton, Stanley	Platt-Higgins, Frederick	Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Llewelyn Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp	Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.	Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)	Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward	Willox, Sir John Archibald
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)	Purvis, Robert	Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)	Pym, C. Guy	Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller	Quilter, Sir Cuthbert	Wolf, Gustav Wilhelm
Lowe, Francis William	Rankin, Sir James	Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Loyd, Archie Kirkman	Rasch, Major Frederic Carne	Wylie, Alexander
Lucas-Shawell, William	Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep' l	Wyndham, George
Macartney, W. G. Ellison	Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.	Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Macdona, John Cumming	Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson	Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
MacIver, David (Liverpool)	Robinson, Brooke	Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Maclean, James Mackenzie	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)	Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinboro' W.	Ryder, John Herbert Dudley	Younger, William
Malcolm, Ian	Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)	TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)	Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert	Sir William Walron and.
Melville, Beresford Valentine	Savory, Sir Joseph	Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, W. (Newc. under Lyme)	Clough, Walter Owen	Griffith, Ellis J.
Allison, Robert Andrew	Colville, John	Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Ambrose, Robert	Crombie, John William	Haldane, Richard Burdon
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.	Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)	Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir W.
Atherley-Jones, L.	Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	Harwood, George
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)	Dalziel, James Henry	Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)	Hazzell, Walter
Baker, Sir John	Davitt, Michael	Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Barlow, John Emmott	Dillon, John	Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Donelan, Captain A.	Hogan, James Francis
Billson, Alfred	Doogan, P. C.	Holden, Sir Angus
Birrell, Augustine	Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)	Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)
Broadhurst, Henry	Duckworth, James	Horniman, Frederick John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson	Dunn, Sir William	Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James	Emmott, Alfred	Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn	Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)	Jacoby, James Alfred
Buxton, Sydney Charles	Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)	Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
Caldwell, James	Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond	Joicey, Sir James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)	Flynn, James Christopher	Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Campbell-Bannerman Sir H.	Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)	Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
Causton, Richard Knight	Fowler, Right Hon. Sir Henry	Kearley, Hudson E.
Cawley, Frederick	Goddard, Daniel Ford	Kinloch, Sir J. George Smyth.
Channing, Francis Allston	Gold, Charles	Kitson, Sir James
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley	Labouchere, Henry

Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfred (Cumb'land)
Leuty, Thomas Richmond
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Logan, John William
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Sir Leonard
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Q.C.)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Ewan, William
McGhee, Richard
McKenna, Reginald
McLaren, Charles Benjamin
McLeod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley, Rt. Hon. J. (Montrose)
Morris, Samuel
Morton, Ed. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Perks, Robert William
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pilkington, Sir. G. A. (Lancs SW)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
Randell, David
Reckitt, Harold James
Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
Rickett, J. Conpton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spicer, Albert
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.

Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philipe
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Jn. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Warner, Thomas Courtney T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wills, Sir William Henry
Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hud'r'sfd)
Woods, Samuel
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. M'Arthur.

Question put accordingly, “That those words be there inserted.” The Committee divided :—Ayes, 165 ; Noes, 262. (Division List, No. 236.)

AYES.

Allen, Wm. (Newc.-un.-Lyme)	Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)	Kitsom, Sir James
Allison, Robert Andrew	Duckworth, James	Labouchere, Henry
Ambrose, Robert	Dunn, Sir William	Lambert, George
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.	Ellis, John Edward	Langley, Batty
Atherley-Jones, L.	Emott, Alfred	Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)	Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)	Leuty, Thomas Richmond
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)	Lewis, John Herbert
Baker, Sir John	Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond	Lloyd-George, David
Barlow, John Emmott	Flynn, James Christopher	Logan, John William
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)	Lough, Thomas
Billson, Alfred	Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry	Lyell, Sir Leonard
Birrell, Augustine	Goddard, Daniel Ford	Macaleese, Daniel
Broadhurst, Henry	Gold, Charles	MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'ns C)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson	Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley	NacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James	Griffith, Ellis J.	M'Dermott, Patrick
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn	Gurdon, Sir William Brampton	M'Ewan, William
Buxton, Sydney Charles	Haldane, Richard Burdon	McGhee, Richard
Caldwell, James	Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.	McKenna, Reginald
Cameron, Robert (Durham)	Harwood, George	McLaren, Charles Benjamin
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)	Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-Hazell, Walter	McLeod, John
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.	Maddison, Fred.
Causton, Richard Knight	Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H.	Maden, John Henry
Cawley, Frederick	Hogan, James Francis	Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Channing, Francis Allston	Holden, Sir Angus	Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)	Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Clough, Walter Owen	Horniman, Frederick John	Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Colville, John	Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.	Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Condon, Thomas Joseph	Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)	Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Crombie, John William	Jacoby, James Alfred	Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.	Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Dalziel, James Henry	Joicey, Sir James	Morley, Rt. Hon. J. (Montrose)
Davies, M. Vaughan, (Cardigan)	Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a	Morris, Samuel
Davitt, Michael	Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hn Sir U	Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Dillon, John	Kearley, Hudson E.	Moss, Samuel
Doneelan, Captain A.	Kinloch, Sir John George S.	Moulton, John Fletcher
Doogan, P. C.		Norton, Capt. Cecil William

Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George W. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Randal, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Dnrham, S. E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton

Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Strachey, Edward
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfr. (Merthyr)
 Trevallyan, Charles Philip
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert

Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
 Woods, Samuel
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur.

NOES.

Aird, John
 Allhusen, A. Henry Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. J. Fitzroy
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Bailie, J. E. B. (Inverness)
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhowmaggree, Sir M. M.
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonser, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bonlnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)

Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drage, Geoffrey
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Ferguson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Man.)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrell

Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Green, Walford D. (Wed'bury)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampste'd)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. J. Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemps, George
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Knowles, Lees
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hn. William E. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley

Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)	Nicol, Donald Ninian	Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.	Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford	Stock, James Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)	Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)	O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens	Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpl.)	Pender, Sir James	Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller	Penn, John	Thorburn, Walter
Lowe, Francis William	Percy, Earl	Thornton, Percy M.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman	Pierpoint, Robert	Tollemache, Henry James
Lucas-Shadwell, William	Platt-Higgins, Frederick	Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Macartney, W. G. Ellison	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp	Tritton, Charles Ernest
Macdona, John Cumming	Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edinburgh)	Usborne, Thomas
MacIver, David (Liverpool)	Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward	Valentia, Viscount
Maclean, James Mackenzie	Purvis, Robert	Wanklyn, James Leslie
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.)	Pym, C. Guy	Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
Malcolm, Ian	Quilter, Sir Cuthbert	Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)	Rankin, Sir James	Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Melville, Beresford Valentine	Rasch, Major Frederic Carne	Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.	Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartp'l)	Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.	Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matt. W.	Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Mildmay, Francis Bingham	Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson	Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Milner, Sir Frederick George	Robinson, Brooke	Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
Milton, Viscount	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)	Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
Milward, Colonel Victor	Ryder, J. H. Dudley	Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Monk, Charles James	Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)	Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (H'nts)	Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert	Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy	Savory, Sir Joseph	Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)	Seely, Charles Hilton	Wylie, Alexander
Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh.)	Seton-Karr, Henry	Wyndham, George
Morrell, George Herbert	Sharpe, William Edward T.	Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Morrison, Walter	Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)	Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)	Sidebottom, William (Derbys.)	Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Mount, William George	Simeon, Sir Barrington	Young, Commander (Berks, E.
Muntz, Philip A.	Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)	Younger, William
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)	Spencer, Ernest	
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)	Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)	
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)	Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)	
Myers, William Henry	Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)	
Newark, Viscount	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)	

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move: "That the question, 'That the words of the clause 'shall be liable to pay only' stand part of the clause,' be now put."

*THE CHAIRMAN: There is an Amendment standing in the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for North-West Durham which, I think, the Committee should have an opportunity of discussing. If the Committee would be prepared to discuss that Amendment, I should decline to accept the motion of the First Lord of the Treasury; but if the Committee do not accept that view, I shall be compelled to accept the motion.

HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): May I ask, Sir, on a point of order, in what way the resolution of the right hon. Gentleman would be put in the event of any arrangement being arrived at by the acceptance of the Amendment you have mentioned? I submit that the proposition should be accepted or refused.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I said I could not accept the motion of the Leader of the House, because I thought there was an Amendment on the Paper which should be discussed. But, of course, if the Committee decline to discuss that Amendment, I shall be compelled to accept the motion of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I rise, Sir, to another point of order. I wonder where I come in.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The Amendment of the hon. Member does not come before that of the hon. Member for North-West Durham.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Committee is a little at a loss to understand what the proceeding is. While fully recognising your desire to secure for the Committee the consideration of a particular Amendment, I would ask how we can be allowed to consider that Amendment without having an opportunity of considering the others. Should we, for instance, have an oppor-

tunity of considering the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for the Carnarvon Boroughs, to which reference was made in the discussion of the Amendment which has just been negatived. The point is, by what process one Amendment can be selected and saved from the wreck without any mercy being shown to the others.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: Earlier in the evening I made the observation that we could not very well tell what Amendments would be put, and I was then assured that every Amendment which was in order would be put from the Chair. And I was debarred from continuing the argument I was addressing to the Committee on the ground of Amendments that were to follow. I would venture to submit to you, Sir, that what the Committee is entitled to ask is that, before the Amendments are shut out, you should on each Amendment rule it out of order. To put to the Committee generally whether they are prepared to discuss a particular Amendment or not is to me an entirely new proceeding.

HON. MEMBERS: No.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: Yes; I can understand that the Amendment may be accepted, but how can the Committee generally say whether they will or will not discuss an Amendment? I would ask your ruling upon the point. As to the motion made by the right hon. Gentleman, I claim that if that Amendment is in order it should be put from the Chair. The House of Commons has a right—the minority even have some rights—to see that the rules of the House are observed. Therefore, we ask your decision upon the motion of the right hon. Gentleman to strike out the words down to "only."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: To keep them in.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: That is the motion that is before the Committee; and, of course, if it is put and carried, the Amendment of the hon. Member for North-West Durham cannot be put. I understand you to say that, if the Committee proposes to discuss that Amendment, you will not put from the Chair the motion of the right hon. Gentleman. If

that is so, then, of course, the motion of the right hon. Gentleman falls to the ground. You have told us that you will not put that motion if the Committee is prepared to discuss the Amendment of the hon. Member for North-West Durham, and, as far as I am concerned, I am prepared to do that.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH (Anglesey): May I ask, Sir, whether, you having refused the closure, the right procedure is not to go on with the next Amendment on the Paper?

***THE CHAIRMAN:** I have followed a precedent which is in my mind—and in the mind of many other Members of the Committee, which was set by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bodmin a good many years ago. In endeavouring to protect the rights of the minority it seemed to me that there was one substantial Amendment which would be shut out if I accepted the motion of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House. I was endeavouring to protect the rights of the minority in that respect, and endeavouring to procure for them a discussion of that Amendment; but if the minority do not wish the course I suggested to be taken, of course, the only alternative for me is to accept the motion of the First Lord of the Treasury.

MR. COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin): Perhaps I may be permitted to recall the circumstances to which you have referred, Sir, because it may have some bearing on the conduct of the Committee to-day. The Committee at that time was in a very excited condition, and it had had a protracted Debate over many Amendments to the Irish Crimes Prevention Bill, and a motion was made that certain words should stand part of the clause. I said that if that motion were accepted it would cut out one or two Amendments, to which I directed attention, which in my judgment were substantial Amendments, and I therefore hesitated to accept the motion. Thereupon the members of the Committee agreed, practically without any vote taken on the subject, to drop all the intermediate Amendments, except the one or two to which I called attention, and to proceed with the discussion. That, I presume, is what you have suggested on the present occasion.

I may say, looking back to that time, that if the Committee had not followed the suggestion made of saving the one or two substantial Amendments to which I have referred, I should, not perhaps immediately, but after a short interval, have accepted the motion that certain words should stand part, even though they did cut out those substantial Amendments, because it is impossible, as I conceive, for the Chairman to do otherwise, having regard to the conduct of business, as well as to the rights of private Members and of the minority. If business is so conducted as to render progress impossible, then, at whatever cost, it is inevitable that certain substantial Amendments may come to be overlooked.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN : I am sure, Sir, there is no disposition in this quarter of the House to do otherwise than facilitate an arrangement—perhaps not entirely to the liking of hon. Members of this side of the House who think they have been treated with small amount of courtesy—but at the same time to facilitate such an arrangement. What we do not see is how, as a matter of form, it is to be brought about. The right hon. Gentleman has reminded us of an occasion to which reference has been made; but I would ask you, Sir, whether, in addition to the Amendment of the hon. Member for North-West Durham, to which you attach importance, you would not also include in your exception the particular Amendment to which reference has been previously made to-day, and as to which an assurance was undoubtedly given to my right hon. friend the Member for West Monmouth that it would be put from the Chair.

***THE CHAIRMAN :** I have a note opposite that particular Amendment that it ought to come up as a new clause, and if it had been reached in the ordinary course of business I should have ruled that it ought to have been raised as a new clause, in the same way as I ruled yesterday that an Amendment put down by the hon. Member for Monmouth should have been brought up as a new clause. Therefore the hon. Member for the Carnarvon Boroughs will not be injured if the arrangement I suggested is adopted.

Mr. Courtney.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN : That entirely saves the understanding with my right hon. friend.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT : You have said, Sir, that your decision on this matter will be taken on whether the House is disposed or not disposed to discuss the Amendment of the hon. Member for Durham. How is that to be ascertained? I ask you to tell us, because that seems to me to be the turning point of the matter.

***THE CHAIRMAN :** I propose to ascertain that by calling upon the hon. Member for Durham. There is only one other hon. Member who has an Amendment before that in order, and if that hon. Member insists on his title to intervene, of course the arrangement would be destroyed, and I should be compelled to accept the motion of the First Lord of the Treasury.

AN HON. MEMBER : Whose Amendment is that?

***THE CHAIRMAN :** The Amendment in the name of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil.

MR. D. A. THOMAS : My Amendment is quite as substantial as that of the hon. Member for North-West Durham. If I had not regarded it as a substantial Amendment I would not have put it on the Paper.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : I ask, on a point of order, whether there is any precedent for the course which you, Mr. Lowther, are now taking; that is to say, in passing over a Member of the House whose Amendment is in order, and calling on an hon. Member whose name stands subsequent on the Paper. Referring for a moment to the only precedent alluded to by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Eodmin, I wish to direct attention to the fact on that occasion, after a very heated discussion, and on

the tenth or eleventh night of the discussion, the right hon. Member for Bodmin was dealing with only a small party in the House, of which I was a Member, and not with the whole body of the Opposition in this House. I venture to submit that in the present instance you, Mr. Lowther, are making a large advance on that precedent. This is only the second night of the Debate in Committee, and the Opposition is not a small minority, but the whole Opposition in the House. I conclude by asking you again whether there is any precedent for the Chairman passing over an hon. Member whose Amendment stands upon the Paper, and calling upon another hon. Member whose name stands subsequently on the Paper.

*THE CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member has misunderstood the situation. I did not pass over the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil ; on the contrary, I stated quite clearly that, except with his consent, I could not call upon the hon. Member for North-West Durham. If he refuses his consent, we are left in the same position as at the close of the last Division.

MR. D. A. THOMAS : I will give my consent.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH : I also would be cut out if this course were taken. My Amendment to limit the operation of the Act to benefices given before the passing of the Act is in order, and stands next on the Paper.

*THE CHAIRMAN : Of course, that Amendment would be passed over along with others. I do not say that it is not in order, but it is not, in my opinion, so substantial. There is a difference between these Amendments. Some are very important ; others not so important. In my opinion the most important Amendment that would be passed over would be that of the hon. Member for North-West Durham.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH : Am I to understand that you are passing over my Amendment to go on to another ?

*THE CHAIRMAN : The only Amendment yet passed over with the consent of the hon. Member in whose name it stands is the Amendment of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil. The other Amendments are subsequent to that of the hon. Member for North-West Durham.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH : Do I understand that by calling on the next Amendment you have passed over my Amendment, which is in order, and which stands next on the Paper ?

*THE CHAIRMAN : It is just the opposite. The Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Anglesey comes after that of the hon. Member for North-West Durham.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES : On a point of order. I have an Amendment on page 16. If it be in order it is undoubtedly an important and substantial Amendment. It would be ruled out by the closure suggested. May I ask if that Amendment of mine is in order ?

*THE CHAIRMAN : I have the same note opposite to the Amendment of the hon. Member for King's Lynn as I have opposite that of the hon. Member for Carnarvon. It ought to be raised as a new clause. I call upon the hon. Member for North-West Durham.

MR. AATHERLEY - JONES (N.-W. Durham) : I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name. The principle upon which the Bill is founded is to be discovered in the declaration in the Report of the Royal Commission, and the speeches of the Members of the Government, and of the Commission during the earlier stages of the discussion. I gather from these that the great object of the Bill is that, according to their view of the facts, certain deductions from the ratable value of the tithe rent-charge had not been made in the case of beneficed clergy which ought to have been made. With the single exception of the hon. and learned

Member for Plymouth, hon. Members were, on the Government side of the House, solicitous during the Debate to repudiate the idea that this concession, for concession it is, was made on the ground of sympathy with the distressful condition of the clergy. I am afraid that we have a very shrewd suspicion, a suspicion to which the hon. and learned Member for Plymouth lent his authority, that the *raison d'être* was not any unjust principle of deductions applied to the tithe rent-charge, but rather the view that the clergy are, from the point of view of sympathy, entitled to some concession on the part of the general tax-payers. I would point out to the House that the claim made in behalf of the clergy is that there are a certain number of deductions which ought to be made and which have not been made. After a very careful and prolonged investigation a certain number of deductions were made, and these are set out in the Report. I am prepared to admit, and I think it is a very sound proposition, that if you can establish that the clergy for the purpose of discharging their office, or causing their office properly to be discharged, are put to expenses which fall or are likely to fall on the tithe rent-charge, then, I think, that is a deduction which may reasonably be made. There are two deductions in my mind to which that principle applies, and two only. One is in respect of the repair of the church; the other is in respect of the necessary employment of a curate for the purpose of discharging the duties of the benefice. Now, I believe that the law, as it at present stands, speaking generally, in spite of a recent decision, does recognise that deductions may be properly made from the rateable value of the benefice for the purpose of the repair of the church, or, at any rate, for the purpose of the repair of that particular part of the building for which the parson is responsible. As to the other charge in regard to the employment of a curate, I am prepared to concede that as the law at present stands, the curate's salary cannot properly be allocated to tithe rent-charge, unless his employment is compulsory. Speaking for myself—and I do not know that any of my hon. or right hon. friends would controvert the proposition—I think it would be only fair and reasonable that these two deductions should be made.

Mr. Atherley-Jones.

This Bill is founded on the principle of deduction, and the hon. Member who is responsible for the Report has eternally hammered on that question. It is because the parson is not fairly treated in respect of rating that he is entitled to these grants, and because there would be difficulty in adjusting the rating in each particular case. One of the most experienced persons connected with the administration of ecclesiastical revenues, Mr. De Bock Porter (Secretary to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners), repudiated the justice of making deductions from the tithe rent-charge, with the exception of repairs of the chancel and the employment of a curate. What are these other deductions? One of them which the hon. and learned Member for Stroud put forward was the land tax. Now, why should the land tax be deducted? The same hon. Gentleman asked whether deduction should not be made in respect of wages for superintendence. Now, I shrink from arguing that point, because is there anything more repugnant to one's conception of the position of a clergyman who has the cure of souls than that there should be a deduction made from the tithe rent-charge based upon the principle of wages? A very distinguished judge repudiated the idea with absolute horror as an indignity to the Church, and yet we are invited in the discussion which has taken place during this Debate to grant a deduction for the services of the pastor of a church in superintending the cure of souls as proper. I will not condescend to discuss that point, because every person who has given evidence upon that question, with the single exception of the hon. Member, has repudiated in the strongest possible manner the idea that you should value by wages the high and sacred duty which a clergyman of the Church of England has to perform. It is perfectly true that a considerable number of clergy do suffer from very grievous distress. We know the numerous appeals which have been made in this respect, and had this measure been applied to the relief of the necessitous clergy, I do not think we should have been prepared to deal otherwise than in a generous and liberal manner with such a measure, so far as is consistent with the principles which we are bound to promote. But it is conceded that it is not for the benefit of the distressed clergy, because it is not the distressed clergyman

with the small tithe who will derive any benefit from this Bill. The man who will derive most benefit is the largest tithe-owner. One word only in conclusion. It is continually contended, and without the smallest pretence of justification, that the clergyman is badly treated. To a large extent that statement has been exploded over and over again by the illustrations which have been given by my hon. friends on this side of the House. But it must be borne in mind that when these commutations took place, not merely the landlord, but the clerical tithe-owner greatly benefited. In the first place, they had the certainty of their income, which they did not have before; and, in the second place, they were not exposed to the vicissitudes of agriculture, because they still had their income by the system of commutation. If there is an injustice at all to the clergy, it is a microscopic injustice, and this Bill is entirely out of proportion to the injustice under which they suffer. That injustice can be dealt with under the present law, and deductions given to meet the exigencies of the situation. It is quite unnecessary that we should give a wholesale dole to the clergy, which, after all, will not very often be of assistance to the really necessitous cases.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'benefice,' to insert the words, 'who has incurred expenses in the employment of a curate for the purposes of such benefice, or has incurred expenses about repairing the church belonging to such benefice, he shall, where such expenditure is not less than one-half of the amount of any rate to which this Act applies.'"—(Mr. Atherley-Jones.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. LONG: The hon. Gentleman's speech and Amendment are very helpful, demonstrating as they do the enormous difficulty of the task which he has set himself to accomplish. He desires to specify what form the relief of rating shall take, and for what services alone this relief shall be given. Well, the Government are abundantly justified in the line that they have adopted by the Report of the Royal Commission. The

Royal Commission had before them all the evidence to which the hon. and learned Gentleman has referred, and we know that they included in their inquiry this question of deductions from the ratable value. I admit at once that if we were dealing in a permanent way with the whole question of local taxation, unquestionably it is by some form of deduction that we should have to seek a permanent remedy. The statement that the Royal Commission recommended that form of relief is a complete mistake. The majority of the Royal Commission, on the contrary, made recommendations of the most general character, and it was only three Members of the Commission who recommended that relief should be given by a process of deductions. If the majority of the Commission had been satisfied that a case for deductions had been established, I have no doubt that, instead of making general recommendations, they would have made some recommendations which would have been a guide to the Government. They avoided doing so, and, considering the difficult and complicated nature of the subject, I am not surprised. I am not prepared to admit, on the part of the Government, that it would be fair to lessen the incidence of the rates with regard only to those clergy covered by the Amendment, because we hold that, as tithe rent-charge owners, the position of the whole of the clergy as ratepayers, as compared with other ratepayers, is an unjust one, and ought to be remedied. The Government cannot, therefore, accept the Amendment.

SIR WILLIAM HARROD: I was surprised to hear the right hon. Gentleman say that the proposals of this Bill were in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and still more surprised that the Government did not follow the recommendations of three members of the Commission whose names have been specially mentioned—namely, Sir John Hibbert, the late Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, and the hon. and learned Member for Stroud, who recommended the self-same proposal as is contained in the Amendment. As a matter of fact, the Government have repudiated the authorities upon whom the hon. and learned Member for Plymouth, whose speech on the Second Reading was

specially thrown at our heads, mainly relied. I will read the Report :

" We desire to add that, in our opinion, the inequality which exists to the detriment of owners of tithe rent-charge not severed from the benefice is due to the fact that, in ascertaining the rateable value of such tithe rent-charge, sufficient deductions from the gross value have not been allowed; and that it is necessary, in order to place the owners of such tithe rent-charge on a footing of equality with the owners or occupiers of other rateable property, to provide by legislation for the allowance of further deductions from the gross value, and in such deductions to recognise the liability which is imposed on the owners of such tithe rent-charge to render certain services as a condition of enjoying their emoluments."

That is the policy recommended by these three Members of the Commission, which has been quoted as the highest authority in the matter. I should like to know how the first of these signatories is going to vote on this Amendment. He has not dissented from the majority Report without grave consideration. That is the situation with reference to the principle of deductions. But higher authority still, the right hon. Gentleman in charge of this Bill, says that no doubt, if we were to consider the question on its merits, the principle of deductions is the right principle; but then, why does he not adopt it? He says it is because of the interim Report, in which these three most important Members recommended the deductions. The majority Report made no recommendations at all, and the right hon. Gentleman says they had not had time, and therefore the Government cannot consider this matter on its proper footing. We believe the principle they have adopted is a wrong one. It is quite obvious that if you have a principle of deductions you reform the principle itself when you make these allowances on particular holdings. But what you do is to assess a property on the old rate, and then pay half of it out of a fund. If you consider any particular class is unjustly dealt with, the remedy is by deductions, and not by assessment, and it is in that way that you ought to proceed. The right hon. Gentleman admits that; but either through being unable to make up its mind, or having no mind on the subject, the Commission lay an interim Report upon the Table of this House, to change the whole system of rating instead of reforming it. The whole difficulty lies in the deductions themselves, when you

come to consider them. Now, what light does that throw on this pretence of doing justice? If there were any injustice at all, you would not have the slightest difficulty in making up your mind as to the addition to be made. There is one other point which commends itself to an ordinary mind, and that is that a man who keeps a curate at £150 a year you admit ought to have a deduction, but you would be unable to give that deduction to a man who ought to keep a curate and does not, and having made it on the ground that you give it to a man for something he has paid, you give it also to another who has not paid it. Then, again, you give it to one man for repairing his chancel, and you give something else to another who does not. That is the principle of this Bill, founded on the principle of blind justice. I suppose the gift, like rain, will descend on the just and unjust alike. If you are going to make allowances at all, you should make them to men who want them. But this system squanders the money of the taxpayers on the pretence that it is wanted by a class of people, whereas that pretence does not apply to a very large section of them. If you made up your minds as to these deductions, you know perfectly well you would not get half the sum which you now ask for, and that is the reason you fly in the face of the recommendation of the three most important Members of the Commission.

MR. HALDANE (Haddington): The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill has told us that he did not accept the Report of the minority of the Commissioners, but he went on to say that the Bill was really founded on the general recommendations of the other Commissioners. I have read that Report very carefully, but I have been unable to find that the recommendations of the majority of the Commissioners are based on any other ground than the theory of deductions. This Bill not only does not give effect to that principle, but goes directly in the teeth of the recommendations based upon it. So inconsistent is the Bill with the theory of deductions, that it proposes to give this grant to rich and poor alike; to those who employ a curate and to those who do not; to those who suffer from these deductions, and to those who do not suffer from them at all. The Amendment of my hon. and learned friend raises a most

Sir William Harcourt.

important question—namely, What is the justification of the Government for their proposition? I trust that hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite, and especially the hon. and learned Member for Stroud and the Solicitor-General—who has been singularly and suspiciously silent during this Debate—will make something like a defence of the provisions involved in the Bill.

MR. CRIPPS (Gloucestershire, Stroud): I merely wish to prevent any misunderstanding. I believe the Royal Commission were unanimous that something must be done of a temporary nature. Those who thought of what the ultimate Report as regards the rating of tithe rent-charge was likely to be, desired to emphasise their view as to what that Report should be. Hon. Gentlemen opposite would not suggest that in a temporary measure of this kind, and without waiting for the final Report of the Royal Commission, we ought to touch the valuation list. The Government are acting on the recommendations of the Royal Commission that they should do something of a temporary nature, and the result will be practically the same as if they had applied the principle of deductions. I am not going into the question of what deductions are proper. That is a matter of controversy. But I wish to protest against the notion that three Members of the Royal Commission dissented upon this point from their colleagues. I believe they were all agreed that something should be done at once.

MR. ABEL THOMAS (Carmarthen, E.): I shall vote in favour of my hon. and learned friend's Amendment, though I feel it requires explanation, because it is one of the most astonishing proposals I have ever heard of. For instance, my hon. and learned friend's first suggestion is that, because a clergyman employs a curate, therefore he is to be relieved from part of his rates. In principle there is absolutely no distinction between the clergyman who employs a curate to help him to do his work and the clergyman who uses a pony and trap, or the man who works all day long and most of the night, and does without both the curate and the pony and trap. To that extent I do not appreciate the Amendment. But I think the Amendment will lessen the evils of this Bill and will save the country

a certain amount of taxes or rates, as the case may be. I do not see the justice of this Bill, and I shall certainly vote in favour of preventing a certain number of clergymen, however hard working, from getting, not what belongs to them, but what I cannot conceive to be their right.

MR. DALZIEL: I think there is a very good case for the Amendment. The representatives of the clergy who gave the evidence before the Commission upon which this Bill is based, advocated exactly what is embodied in the Amendment. The Report says that Mr. Griffith-Boscawen, M.P., Mr. Petersen, and the Rev. E. F. Gepp urged that, in addition to the existing deductions, allowances should be made for the professional services to clerical titheowners, for the stipends of necessary curates, and other deductions are also mentioned. My hon. friend says that the rich man who undertakes the duties, knowing the liabilities, ought not to benefit by this Bill. But there may be cases where a large amount of the stipend goes in the payment of curates, and in that way the operation of the Bill would be limited. On this ground I shall support the Amendment.

MR. MCKENNA: I should be glad if we could agree upon certain matters under discussion. We shall all agree that tithe rent-charge is properly rateable. That is accepted by the Bill itself, inasmuch as it leaves tithe rent-charge rateable exactly as now. It is also recognised that tithe rent-charge in the hands of lay impro priators is likewise left rateable. The Bill distinguishes between tithe rent-charge in the hands of two particular kinds of owners, so that the liability to pay rates is reduced to whether the owner of particular tithe property is a clerical or a lay person. The issue of principle between us is whether the cleric should be relieved of half his rates, or whether he should continue to pay rates upon the tithe rent-charge as the lay proprietor does. I have honestly endeavoured to follow the arguments of the Royal Commissioners as set out in the Report, and to a certain extent I have been able to persuade myself that there is a great deal to be said from their point of view. But I cannot find a single word in that Report which supports the proposition of the Government as it now stands in the Bill.

before us, although I find on page after page recommendations strictly in the spirit of the Amendment before the Committee. The first part of the Report gives the history of rates as they affect tithe rent-charge. In the 13th subdivision of the Report will be found this heading : "Claims put forward on behalf of the incumbents for alterations in the system of valuing tithe rent-charge." It is upon alterations in the system of valuing tithe rent-charge that the Commission proceeds, and upon nothing else. The liability to pay rates remains as a permanent idea throughout the Report. Paragraph 84 gives a summary of the claim put forward on behalf of the incumbents for a re-valuation of tithe rent-charge. Is not this a fair and concise summary of the whole case as put forward on their behalf—that their tithe rent-charge is given to them solely on conditions which are not imposed upon lay impropriators, and that inasmuch as clerics are under that duty they ought to be allowed some deduction in their assessment in consequence of their obligation to perform that duty? The principle of justice which is put forward is that proper deductions are not made. There is no other claim put forward in this Report from beginning to end. Mr. Cassell, in his evidence, simply reiterates the opinion of the Commission as to the justification of their doing—what?—not remitting half the rates, but reducing the assessment. This Amendment does in principle carry out the recommendation of the Commission—the only recommendation upon which the alleged principle of justice can be based. We are trustees of the public in the control of the public finances. Surely, then, it is very desirable in a question of this sort, in which money is at issue, that we should go very strictly upon principles of equity. We cannot always go upon principles of justice as laid down by the Courts of Law; it is our duty frequently to overrule those decisions; but we ought to follow the principles of equity which have been laid down for our guidance, and which are not the principles underlying this Bill as it now stands. If this Amendment were accepted, I readily admit you would gain two results; but those results are beneficial both to the principle which ought to underly this Bill, and to those who most strenuously support this measure. The first result is that the rich tithe-owner

will not get an advantage proportionate to his riches; he will get only the same advantage as is obtained by the poorer tithe-owners. Surely that is very desirable. The second result will be that we shall cast the burden of the cost of the measure, not upon the general taxpayer, but upon the persons who ought to be made liable for it—that is, the persons who have been reaping the advantage of the parson's over-assessments in the past. I challenge hon. Members opposite to declare that, provided the same total amount of relief is given to the clergy, it would not be far more in accordance with their ideas of the distribution of the money that it should go in equality of payment to all clergy alike, and that it should not go in a larger proportion to the richer, and a less proportion to the poorer. That principle is better carried out by the Amendment than by the Bill, and therefore I shall support the former.

MR. LAMBERT: This Amendment raises a principle which is well deserving of the attention of the Committee, and one the importance of which no one can deny. It really carries out the principle which we were told just now would be the ultimate recommendation of the Royal Commission. The hon. Member for Stroud defends the Bill on the ground that it is a rough-and-ready method of getting justice. That may be, but for my own part, what I object to is this rough-and-ready method of throwing about the taxpayers' money to persons who do not want it at all. The taxpayers and ratepayers do not get their money so easily as to want it thrown about in that rough-and-ready way. They want it distributed in the most equitable manner, so that it will do most good to those classes for whose benefit it is spent. It is because the Amendment carries out that principle that I shall support it. It also carries out the principle enunciated by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture, when he said that the permanent remedy undoubtedly would be, as regards rating, some kind of deduction from the gross annual value. Why do we want, in this measure, which professes to be a reform of rating, to proceed upon wrong principles? Surely it ought to be a principle in this country that those who do their duty should get relief, and those who do not should not get relief. If this Amendment were carried the poor curates

Mr. McKenna.

who at present are in receipt of such miserable stipends might have a chance of being a little better paid. Surely if any persons receive relief under this Bill it should be these poor curates, rather than the rich incumbents who have incomes of from £1,000 to £1,500 a year. Another point is that rich tithe-payers have been receiving an addition out of the commutation for a large number of years, and have therefore received a very considerable sum over and above the amount they have paid. The Amendment would limit this relief to the smaller tithe-owners, and thereby indirectly carry out the principle of not paying over and over again the rates of these gentlemen, who have had such large sums added to their already very high interest. It cannot be denied that the Report of, and the evidence given before, the Royal Commission go in favour of such a system as is suggested in the Amendment—a system of deductions—and surely the Government ought to give some credence and weight to the views of those upon whose evidence this Bill professes to be based. Mr. Petersen suggests that where a curate was unnecessarily employed the amount proposed to be deducted should not be allowed, but that where the Bishop was of opinion a curate was necessary the deduction should be made. While I do not agree with this gentleman's arguments, I do think the Government, as they have brought in the Bill on this evidence, should carry out his suggestions, and also the recommendations of the hon. Gentleman who had the courage to suggest a definite plan for the consideration of the Government. They should, at any rate, give credence to the Report of the Commission and to the weight of the evidence, which I am sure, from the tithe-owners' point of view, is incontestably in favour of the proposition embodied in this Amendment.

hold very strongly that of the many iniquitous measures introduced by the present Government this is not the least iniquitous. My contention is that it is a Bill to take out of the poor man's pocket money he can ill afford to spare, in order to give it to men, many of whom have £1,000 a year. I cannot, however, follow the argument whereby my hon. friend attempts to support his Amendment —

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present; House counted, and forty Members being found present—

MR. LOGAN: My hon. friend's argument really amounts to this. He says "Exceptional consideration shall be allowed to clergymen who have employed a portion of the money they receive as tithe rent-charge for the purpose of employing a curate or repairing a church." I can quite understand that argument as far as it goes, but I think my hon. friend has forgotten the source from which this money comes. A great many people are apt to forget that the only portion of the tithe rent-charge which either a necessitous or a rich parson can claim as income is that portion which remains after the liabilities which attach to it have been met. One of the liabilities is the payment of the rates, and I cannot, myself, see that we are justified in recognising for a single moment the right of the clerical tithe-owner to use any portion of the money that should go for the payment of rates for the purpose of paying a curate or beautifying his church. The tithe rent-charge is a charge upon the land, and I hold that if I support this Amendment I shall be recognising the right to take from its present purpose and object a portion of the charge in order to use it for other purposes. I take that strong line because I recognise that the nation has an interest in this tithe rent-charge. It is the nation's reserve interest in the land, and that is the reason why I protest against money set apart for a particular purpose being handed over to gentlemen in possession of benefices to be employed for other purposes. I would ask hon. Gentlemen who support this Amendment whether it would not be a very great temptation, indeed, to some of these clerical holders of tithe rent-charge to use the money in beautifying their churches, and so deprive

MR. LOGAN (Leicester, Harborough): I regret to find myself unable, without some further explanation, to support my hon. friend's Amendment. By it he seeks to limit the operation of the Bill to those clergymen who have incurred expense in the employment of a curate for the purposes of a benefice, or for the repair of the Church belonging to a benefice. To the extent that the Amendment limits the operation of the Bill I am, of course, with my hon. friend, because I

the rates of it. It necessarily follows that if this money, which should go to the relief of the rates, is used for the purposes of beautifying a church or paying an overworked curate, the other ratepayers in the immediate neighbourhood will be called upon to pay an additional rate. That is, I think, a very real danger, and I would remind the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill that in most parishes in the rural districts, with which he and I are very familiar, the person is usually the second richest man in the place, and if by this Amendment he is able to throw a greater burden of rates on his neighbours he will be doing it to men, 999 out of every 1,000 of whom are poorer than himself. Although I cannot vote against the Amendment, because it limits the mischief of the Bill, I will not pledge myself to vote for it, unless my hon. friend can give further reasons in support of it.

*MR. MENDL (Plymouth): This Amendment is a very good illustration of the confusion which exists as to the two possible bases on which this Bill is founded. As I understand the Amendment of my hon. friend the Member for North-West Durham, it is based on the Report of the Royal Commission, which relies upon the fact that deductions are claimed by the owners of tithe, inasmuch as landowners are allowed deductions in respect of their rates. My hon. friend suggests that instead of taking a lump sum and handing it over to the clergy, irrespective as to whether they are or are not fulfilling certain functions, you should apply this money to those clergymen who are fulfilling certain functions in respect of their office. To oppose this, to my mind, gives away the whole basis of the Bill. It is true that in the country and the Press the whole contention has been that the clergy have suffered in consequence of the fall in agricultural produce and the expenses of their benefices. That is nothing more nor less than an appeal *in formu pauperis*—an appeal by the clergy to the charity of the taxpayers of this country to assist them. But this Amendment is a test of the contention put forward time after time by the right hon. Gentleman and hon. Gentlemen opposite, in the course of the debates on this Bill, that this Bill is not based on mercy or charity, but on justice. My hon. friend proposes that its operation should be confined to

Mr. Logan.

those beneficed clergy who have incurred expense in the employment of a curate or in repairing the Church belonging to the benefice. There is one aspect of the Amendment which commends itself to me, and that is that one of the first results of its operation would be that a very large number of additional curates would be employed. The Amendment employs the method recommended by the Royal Commission, and it is the method nearest to that applied to ratepayers who are not clerical tithe-owners. There is a further recommendation, and that is that it would limit the amount of money to be spent, and spent to the great disadvantage and detriment of urban ratepayers. I think the Amendment is a very fair test, because any hon. Member who votes against it cannot pretend that he regards this Bill as being based on justice, because if it is based on justice, surely justice is amply done when you provide a *quid pro quo* for those clergymen who have claims in regard to expenses connected with the church. As the Bill now stands, the clergyman who does not employ a curate, or repair his church, is in the same or even in a better position than a clergyman who does. For many reasons, although I admit there is danger in allowing deductions of any kind from what, after all, has been historically proved to be the gross and not the net income, I shall support the Amendment.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): Although I admit there is a great deal of force in the arguments of my hon. and learned friend who moved this Amendment, I cannot agree with it as it stands. Let us consider for a moment what the position of the Bill now is. The right hon. Gentleman opposite has stated again and again that this Bill is based on the theory that the existing rating law involves an injustice to one class of tithe-owner. We on this side contend that the law as it stands is equitable and fair, and that the clergy should be assessed for rates like other tithe-owners. We have, therefore, a conflict of first principles, and I need hardly remind the Committee of the maxim that with those who deny first principles it is impossible to argue. Now, my hon. friend's Amendment appears to me to give away the very case we have been endeavouring to build up against the

arguments of the other side. There appears, I will not say confusion, but some difference of opinion, on the other side as to the real principle on which this Bill is based. The right hon. Gentleman has been clear and consistent throughout, but there have been one or two other Members who have been very far from taking the same broad and general view suggested by him, and I can quite see how that arises. I find in the Report of the Royal Commission, on which, in part at least, this proposed legislation is based, there are two recommendations in which there is considerable divergence of principle, or, if not principle, of practical argument. The first recommendation states that the representations made to the Committee on behalf of the owners of tithe rent-charge not severed from a benefice, have shown that the burden of local taxation is unduly onerous, and that sufficient allowance is not made for the fact that the persons entitled to tithe rent-charge are, under legislation, obliged to render service and to perform duties in return therefor. That recommendation is a correct logical and legal way of stating the peculiarity that exists in the case of clergymen, whether that peculiarity entitles them to relief or not. The second recommendation is larger. It states that the case of the owners of tithe rent-charge not severed from a benefice is based on the ground which the Commissioners consider to have been fully established—that the present law, as interpreted by the courts, works unjustly, and places those owners in a much less favourable position than other owners of rateable property. It is on this latter recommendation that this Bill has been based. The right hon. Gentleman has referred to this Bill as a measure of justice, and, taking a broad survey of the whole law and incidence of local taxation, he thinks it is a fair and a proper Bill for the relief of a deserving class of ratepayers. That is not the way in which the Bill is regarded throughout the country. The danger I want to point out is, that if this Amendment is introduced into the Bill, it will give a colour to this Bill other than that which the Government desire to give to it, and it may be used as a valid argument in favour of the Bill, the very first principle of which I regard as unjust and improper. The Amendment too puts the obligation with regard to the repair of churches much

wider than it is in law. The only legal obligation on a vicar is to repair the chancel, whereas the Amendment refers to the whole structure. I am sorry to have to differ from my hon. friend, whose good intentions I recognise; but while I cannot disguise my feeling of hostility to this measure, I cannot support the Amendment.

*MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire): I also disapprove of the Amendment, because it appears to me to run counter to the first principles of rating. The first principles of rating as I understand it is that there shall be deducted from the gross receipts everything necessary to keep the property in condition, and that the balance shall be rated. In point of fact, the present law works equal justice to all ratepayers. Every ratepayer is allowed deductions on the same principle, namely, the cost of securing the net return. The deductions vary in proportion to that cost. The employment, or the non-employment of a curate, makes no difference whatever as to the way in which the tithe rent-charge is collected. In the case of a land-owner nobody dreams of asking what he does with his rents. What is looked to is the amount of outgoings necessarily required to keep the property in such a condition as that it will command a rent. So in the case of a curate, his employment or non-employment has nothing whatever to do with the growth of the tithe rent-charge. Then the rector is the person who is to repair the chancel, but that duty is incumbent upon him as owner of the tithe, and not as having cure of souls, for the duty is incumbent also on the lay impropriator. Of course it may be said that the Bill sins against all the principles of rating, but I cannot think that is a sufficient defence for the endowment we are now making. There is a further reason against deductions such as this, and that is that the clergy already have largely benefited in the course of the last sixty years. They have greatly benefited by the commutation of the tithe into a tithe rent-charge as a first charge on the land. In the next place they have been relieved by recent legislation of the irksome duty of collecting the tithe. Then they have been relieved of the up-keep of the elementary schools, and that is an endowment which will make it extremely difficult to bring about reforms in the

future. In fact the general position of the clergy has been greatly altered for the better, and therefore any claim they may have is entirely misplaced as a matter of justice. The real injustice is on the side of the ratepayers, for these will now have the fund for the relief of their rates considerably diminished in order to aid the clergy. We know that the doctrine of verbal inspiration is going to be applied to this Bill, as it was applied to another Bill. So far from the clergy being in a position which requires justice to be done to them, if they would do justice themselves they would give up a considerable portion of the emoluments which they now receive.

MR. MOSS: The right hon. Gentleman opposite says that the principle of this Bill is that of justice. To my mind I can only see one principle in it, that is the principle of robbing the poor to pay the parson. I cannot logically support the Amendment which the hon. Member for North-West Durham has moved. I do not quite see on what principle it is based, or why, because a clergyman pays so much for his curate, or for the repair of his church, he should be relieved of the payment of half his rates. We are all aware that one object of the tithe was the repair of the church edifice, and, if that be so, I do not see why we should go to the extent of relieving the incumbent of that obligation. As to the case of the payment of the curate, it seems to me that the argument of the hon. Member for Carnarvon is perfectly justifiable. Why should we take money out of the rates in order to allow a clergyman to keep two housemaids instead of one? Besides, you are granting relief to the very clergymen who are in least need of it. However, of the choice of two evils offered me, I prefer the Amendment to the Bill.

***MR. CHANNING** (Northamptonshire, E.): I concur to some extent in what has fallen from the hon. Member for Denbighshire. I can see no logical basis nor satisfactory legal argument for the Amendment, but unlike the hon. Member I intend to vote against it. It seems to me that the argument urged before the Royal Commissioners in favour of the policy of authorising these deductions in order to arrive at the true

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

rateable value of the tithe are thoroughly defective. The whole of the arguments rest on a transparent fallacy, which was exposed by the right hon. Member for Bodmin in the earlier stages of this Debate. The tithe rent-charge is a land value assigned to clergy; it is not in any sense an income, it is a land value, therefore assessable for local taxation in the same way as all other land values are. In this respect the argument of the right hon. Gentleman who introduced the Bill is absolutely fallacious; and I do not think any speech since the beginning of these Debates has so illustrated the absolute futility to make out a case for this Bill as the speech of the right hon. Gentleman in reply to my hon. friend. I would ask the right hon. Gentleman why it does not occur to Her Majesty's Government to follow the course proposed by Mr. Sclater Booth, when President of the Local Government Board. He attempted in a clause of a Bill in 1879 to deal with this question on the lines of the hon. and learned Member for Stroud, as quoted in the Report. I maintain that the Government have abandoned the principles of their own Party in dealing with this question. They have hopelessly condemned the policy which claims to be one of justice, but is really a policy of doles to those who have served them politically. They have absolutely demonstrated that no principle underlies this Bill and that it cannot be justified.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: I have come to the conclusion, somewhat painfully, that this Amendment is purely theoretical. My hon. friend's Amendment has, however, this value at least, that it puts to the test the question whether the Government are proceeding with this Bill on some principle applicable to rating, or on the principle of helping their political friends. This theoretical Amendment is very valuable, also, because it cannot be doubted that the whole of the evidence was directed to the deductions which were to be made from the tithe rent-charge. At page twenty-five of the Report, a list of these deductions is given by the Commission—land tax, liability to repair the chancel of the parish church, personal services of the vicar, payment to curates, payments to daughter churches, pensions to retired incumbents, payments to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty,

for the redemption of loans. It is on such lines as these that the Government should have proceeded if they really wanted to amend the rating law. If their desire was to proceed by any kind of rule or principle applicable to rating it should have been done on the lines of the hon. and learned Member for Stroud. They say, however, that that cannot be done, as this is a big question, until the Report of the Royal Commission as a whole comes up. According to the hon. Member for Stroud this is only a rough-and-ready method of dealing with the question temporarily. It is because it is a rough-and-ready method that I object to it; it is ready for the parsons and rough on the other ratepayers of the country. My hon. friend in his Amendment says that the deductions to be made in future are the expenses for the employment of a curate and for the repair of the chancel; but the relief is to be given without regard at all to the value of the benefice or to the services of the incumbent. Now, I maintain that in practice that will not be workable at all. As a matter of fact the relief would be in favour of the rich men with large livings, and there would be no relief to the men who have small livings. There might be some show of reason in favour of the Amendment, if my hon. friend had provided that relief is to be granted where the curate is "necessarily employed," but my hon. friend says, "where the curate is, in fact, employed." I think that is entirely wrong—I was going to say, wrong in principle; but I cannot get at the principle of the Bill. As a practical man I am bound to say that this Amendment is not workable in practice. I am not drawing on my imagination.

Cases have been put before the Royal Commission of people who need not have employed curates, but who did. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the Chairman of the Commission, asked a witness, Mr. Petersen—the only layman who appeared as a witness on that side of the question—except the hon. Member for Stroud—whether, assuming that the rector was a very elderly or rich man and employed a curate, he would allow his salary to be deducted. "No," said Mr. Petersen, "I would not in that case. I should only allow the deduction where the bishop of the diocese certified that the curate was necessarily employed." There is nothing of that kind in the Bill at all, and nothing to indicate that the curate must be "necessarily employed." The result will therefore be that the rich man and the idle man will be relieved, and the poor struggling vicar will not be relieved. As a practical man I think the Amendment is not workable. This matter has perplexed me very greatly, and I am loth to part from my friends in the lobby. But I think I am on safe ground in deciding how to vote on this Amendment. Ought we, in this piecemeal fashion, in this rough-and-ready method, to give any relief at all to these people out of the poor taxpayers' pockets?

Mr. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 208; Noes, 121. (Division List No. 237.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bennroe, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander

Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdet-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Wor'r')

Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Cornwallis, Fiemmes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount

Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Mncr.)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzWigram, General Sir F.
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robt. Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-

Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, James
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir D. (Swansea)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morgan, Hon. F. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. W. (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Pym, C. Guy

Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep' l)
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, B. C. Vernon
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Williams, J. Powell (Birr.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr. Anstruther

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allen, W. (Newc. -under-Lyme)
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Channing, Francis Alston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)

Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Gurdon, Sir William B.
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-

Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kinloch, Sir J. George S.
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)

Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McDermott, Patrick
 McGhee, Richard
 McKenna, Reginald
 McLeod, John
 Maden, John Henry
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morton, Edw. J.C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark

Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Palmer, G. Wm. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G.A. (Lancs SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randall, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)

Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds S.)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudders.)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr.
 M'Arthur and Mr. Causton.

Question put accordingly, “That those words be there inserted.”

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 98
 Noes, 218. (Division List, No. 238.)

AYES.

Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Denny, Colonel
 Dillon, John
 Donegan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dougherty, George
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Horniman, Frederick John

Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Altrea
 Joicey, Sir James
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kinloch, Sir John George S.
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McDermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 McKenna, Reginald
 McLeod, John
 Maden, John Henry
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George W. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Perks, Robert William

Pickard, Benjamin
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randall, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edm. (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Ure, Alexander
 Walton, J. Lawson, (Leeds, S.)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John C. (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Durham Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd's f'd)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Atherley-Jones and
 Mr. Mendl.

NOES.

Aird, John
 Allhusen, Augustus Hen. Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man.)

Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)

Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants.)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles

Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscowen, Arthur Griffith-Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Lord H. (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Bir.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Colston, Charles E. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herb Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Ferguson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzWyggram, General Sir F.
 Foster, Col. W. H. (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert

Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hon. A. S. (Staffs.)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon, James
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. W. Edw. H.
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swan.)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 McIver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W.
 Malcolm, Ian
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hon. F. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, C. J. (Coventry)

Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rasch, Major F. Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Spencer, Ernest
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf Uni.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tolemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Mr. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question 'That the words of the Clause 'shall be liable to pay only' stand part of the Clause,' be now put."

Question put, "That the words of the Clause 'shall be liable to pay only' stand part of the Clause, be now put." The Committee divided:—Ayes, 222; Noes, 135. (Division List, No. 239.)

{ 11 JULY 1899 }

AYES.

Aird, John	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)	Milward, Colonel Victor
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.	Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)	Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Galloway, William Johnson	More, Robt. Jasper' Shropshire)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Garfit, William	Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'ths.)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Gedge, Sydney	Morrell, George Herbert
Bagot, Capt Joceline FitzRoy	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Morrison, Walter
Baird, John George Alexander	Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St Albans)	Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manc'r)	Giles, Charles Tyrell	Mount, William George
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Giliat, John Saunders	Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Banbury, Frederick George	Godson, Sir A. Frederick	Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Bartley, George C. T.	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Myers, William Henry
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	Newark, Viscount
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin	Goschen, Rt Hn GJ (St George's)	Nicholson, William Graham
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Gosch-n, George J. (Sussex)	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Beach, WW Brampton (Hants.)	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Penn, John
Beckett, Ernest William	Graham, Henry Robert	Percy, Earl
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Pierpoint, Robert
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)	Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Bethell, Commander	Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)	Pollock, Harry Frederick
Bigwood, James	Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Bil, Charles	Gretton, John	Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Gull, Sir Cameron	Pym, C. Guy
Bond, Edward	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles	Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Bonsor, H. Cosmo Orme	Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George	Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.	Rentoul, James Alexander
Bousfield, William Robert	Hardy, Laurence	Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
Brassey, Albert	Hare, Thomas Leigh	Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Heaton, John Henniker	Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Helder, Augustus	Round, James
Bullard, Sir Harry	Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Burdett-Coutts, W.	Hill, Rt. Hn A. Staveley (Staffs.)	Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Butcher, John George	Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampst'd)	Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)	Savory, Sir Joseph
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Hobhouse, Henry	Seton-Karr, Henry
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Cecil, Lord H. (Greenwich)	Hornby, Sir William Henry	Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Howard, Joseph	Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)	Howell, William Tudor	Simeon, Sir Barrington
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)	Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-	Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Charrington, Spencer	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Spencer, Ernest
Clare, Octavius Leigh	Jolliffe, Hon. H. George	Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)	Kemp, George	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.	Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.	Stephens, Henry Charles
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Kenyon, James	Stock, James Henry
Colston, Charles E. H. Athole	Keswick, William	Strauss, Arthur
Compton, Lord Alwyne	Kimber, Henry	Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	King, Sir Henry Seymour	Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)	Knowles, Lee	Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Un.)
Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.	Lafone, Alfred	Thornburn, Walter
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge	Laurie, Lieut.-General	Thornton, Percy M.
Cranborne, Viscount	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	Tollemache, Henry James
Cripps, Charles Alfred	Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Edw. H.	Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie	Valentia, Viscount
Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)	Leighton, Stanley	Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'ns'a	Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Curzon, Viscount	Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.	Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Dalkeith, Earl of	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Long, Col. Charles W (Evesham)	Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)	Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller	Wilson, J. W. (Worcester, N.)
Doughty, George	Lowe, Francis William	Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Lowles, John	Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	Loyd, Archie Kirkman	Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. S.
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Lucas-Shadwell, William	Wylie, Alexander
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.	Macartney, W. G. Ellison	Wyndham, George
Fardell, Sir T. George	MacIver, David (Liverpool)	Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward	M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.	Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r)	Malcolm, Ian	Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Finch, George H.	Martin, Richard Biddulph	Younger, William
Finlay, Sir Robert B.	Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)	
Fisher, William Hayes	Milbank, Sir Powlett Charles J.	
Fison, Frederick W.	Mildmay, Francis Bingham	
FitzWygram, General Sir F.	Milner, Sir Frederick George	

(Rates) Bill.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Wm. (Newc. under Lyme)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert Durham
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Clough, Walter Owen
Colville, John
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davitt, Michael
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Dukeworth, James
Dunn, Sir William
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir William B.
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-Hazell, Walter
Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holden, Sir Angus

Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hon Sir U.
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kinlock, Sir John George S.
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Leng, Sir John
Leuty, Thomas Richmond
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Logan, John William
Lough, Thomas
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Ewan, William
M'Ghee, Richard
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Mo-s, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
Palmer, Geo. Wm. (Reading)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Perks, Robert William

Pickard, Benjamin
Pickergill, Edward Hare
Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
Provost, Andrew Dryburgh
Randell, David
Reckitt, Harold James
Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, J. H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on Tees)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanhope, Hon. P. J.
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Warner Thos. Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wills, Sir William Henry
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'sf'd)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Gladstone and Mr.
M'Arthur

Question put accordingly, "That the words of the Clause 'shall be liable to pay only' stand part of the Clause." The Committee divided :—Ayes, 234 ; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 240.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt Hon A J (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Beauj.
Beach, Rt Hon Sir M H (Bristol)
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants.)
Beckett, Ernest William
Henrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.

Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir C. William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)

Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Aust'n (Worc'r)
Ctarrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavia Leigh
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edward B.
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount

Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt Hon Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameror.
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Heatton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor

Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir Jno. H.
 Kenyon, James
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lecky, Rn. Hon. W. E. H.
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Fer Sir Lewis (Edinburgh)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hon. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Milbank, Sir Powlett C. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Millward, Colonel Victor
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp

Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tonlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allen, W. (Newc. under Lyme)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. Henry
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry

Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John

Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardig'n)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)

Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R.C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, R.H. Sir U.
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kinloch, Sir John Gee. Symth
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William

Longh, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'n's C)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Brecknockshire)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor J. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George W. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Meller
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Provost, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton

Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Toxteth-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Strachey, Edward
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rsfd)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOS.—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: The Amendment I have to move is on page 16, and it is to provide that the owner of tithe rent-charge attached to a benefice should be liable to pay only "the proportion set forth in the schedule to this Act," and if hon. Members look at the Amendment to the schedule which it is my intention to move subsequently they will see it reads:

"When the amount of rent-charge attached to a benefice does not exceed £150, the proportion of the rate which the owner shall be liable to pay shall be one-half; exceeds £150, but does not exceed £200, two-thirds; exceeds £200, but does not exceed £300, three-fourths; exceeds £300, four-fifths."

This Amendment is one of considerable substance, but at the same time, when I see the First Lord of the Treasury on the Front Bench, I confess I move it with a considerable degree of trepidation. And I would here like to protest against the action taken by the First Lord of the Treasury against me.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled on this Amendment to comment on the action of the First Lord.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Only with the indulgence of the Committee. Every Amendment I have upon the Paper has been ruled by you, Mr. Lowther, to be in order. The first was accepted with so much expedition that I hardly knew whether it was accepted or not, but on the other two the closure has been moved. The present Amendment would form a sliding scale, and the intention is to provide that those who are in most need shall receive at any rate the largest proportion of relief. If the right hon. Gentleman will accept the principle of the Amendment, I shall be ready to accept modifications of its terms.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words 'one-half,' in order to insert the words 'the proportion set forth in the schedule to this Act.'"—(Mr. David Thomas.)

instead thereof:—

Question proposed, "That the words 'one-half' stand part of the clause."

MR. LONG : I regret that it will be impossible for me to accept the hon. Gentleman's Amendment in the form in which it stands, or in any other form. The hon. Gentleman tells us that one of his objects is to take care that the relief should go to the most deserving and not in some cases to the wealthy. I must repeat that the hon. Gentleman's object, which is no doubt a desirable one, would not be attained by this Amendment. It is really ludicrous to imagine that the amount of tithe rent-charge attached to a benefice is in any way an indication of the emoluments of that benefice, and the position of the incumbent. It is impossible to arrive at the precise position of the incumbent without examination into the peculiar conditions attaching to his own incumbency and parish, a form of inquiry which it would be obviously impossible to make. I said on the Second Reading of the Bill that the course we have adopted was one for which we have precedents in the present Lighting and Sanitary Acts. Whether or not they are new rates is not the question at all. The suggestion of the hon. Member is that the relief should be given more in accordance with the requirements of the recipients. But if you take the tithe rent-charge as an indication of the recipient's position you will be misled, because while tithe rent-charge stands at varying sums, in one case it stands by itself, and in another case it is added to other sources of revenue. Then, when you have arrived at the full amount of the value of the benefice, you must find out what are the demands made upon the incumbent, upon which depends the net value of the benefice. It would not be possible to draw a hard and fast rule such as that suggested by the hon. Member, which would not involve much greater hardship and injustice than anything which can possibly follow from the scheme proposed by the Government. It can easily be shown that even when the rates paid by the owners of tithe rent-charge have been reduced by one half, they will still pay in a much heavier

degree than other ratepayers in a similar position. The suggestion that by adopting this Amendment the relief would be averaged in a fairer way cannot be entertained, because the tithe rent-charge by itself cannot be taken as an indication of a serious necessity.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) : We are dealing here with old rates, and old rates are not in any respect a burden upon the present owners of property. The present owner takes the property subject to the burden of the old rates. If you make a remission of these old rates it follows that the larger owner gets the larger remission, and you are making a present not merely of the sum in hand, but of the capital value of the rates so long as the remission lasts, to every person who benefits by it. If you give a remission in proportion to the value of the tithe rent-charge, you are giving a larger bonus to the wealthier man, so far as this property is concerned, and a smaller bonus to the poorer man, and that is an injustice against which my hon. friend wishes to guard by this Amendment. If the right hon. Gentleman could have pointed in the matter of lighting and watching and sanitary legislation to a case in which Parliament interfered with an old rate being a burden on the land and not on the owner of the land, and give remission therefrom in proportion to the amount of the rate, he would have had a precedent for the course he has now taken. He has in no degree met the principle or the spirit of the Amendment, which is one of the most important that has been or will be moved, and I hope it will be adequately discussed on both sides of the House.

*MR. PERKS : One reason for reducing the amount which incumbents may receive in mitigation of their rates is that which I pointed out last evening, namely, in a very important feature this fund which has been provided by the Government may not be sufficient—for we then

showed, and it was admitted by the Government, that the contingency had not been provided for that in the event of a lay impropriator giving back tithes to a benefice, those tithes will be able to claim the benefits of the Act. The basis upon which tithes are now assessed is not the par value, but the varying value of grain, and consequently tithes are now assessed at about 63 per cent. of the par value of the tithe as commuted in 1836. It is perfectly evident that contingencies might arise when the assessed value of these tithes would approximate to the par value again. What would be the immediate effect of the outbreak of an European war? The value would at once rise. There would be no such distinction between the par value and the present assessed value, and consequently the amount at which tithes would be assessed would be enormously in excess of that at which they are now rated. If such a contingency were to occur, it is perfectly clear that the clergy would be rated, not upon a very largely reduced value, but upon a largely increased value, and being assessed upon the increased value the relief which they would be entitled to claim under this Bill would rise in exactly the same ratio. In such a contingency the very *raison d'être* of the Bill would disappear, because the tithes payable would be largely increased simultaneously with the reduction of the rates being increased at the same time.

MR. LEWIS: This Amendment seeks to introduce into this Bill that system of graduation which has been adopted in other directions, and which is now universally recognised as a just principle. It has been adopted in the case of the income-tax by means of exemptions. The right hon. Gentleman said it would be necessary to make a number of inquiries into the actual value of the tithe and so on in the particular livings, but he might just as well say that it would be necessary to make an inquiry into the extent of a

man's income and the burdens upon that income. There would be absolutely no difficulty in adopting the principle, whether or not the particular form recommended was adopted by the Government. But I am afraid the Amendment will not be accepted by the Government, not because it is not a reasonable one, but because the Government have made up their minds that no Amendment of any kind whatever is to be inserted in the Bill, so as to avoid the Report stage, and that the country may have as little opportunity as possible of judging and pronouncing their opinion upon this Bill.

*MR. MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston): It seems to me the Government are very happy in the choice of the Minister to whom they have committed the charge of this Bill. He has two advantages. He has the advantage obviously of never having inquired into the elementary principles of taxation which have relation to the question, and he also has the advantage of not seeing when the arguments of 10 o'clock destroy the arguments he advanced at 7 o'clock. In his mind absolutely contradictory principles never interfere with one another. Let us see the defence he has made for the action of the Government in regard to this Amendment. He says, "Oh, you are quite wrong in thinking that we can distinguish between one clergyman and another by the amount of tithe he possesses. Tithe is only a portion of his income." What then becomes of the challenge of the right hon. Gentleman to the Opposition to find anybody but a clergyman who was rated on his income? Was not the Bill brought in on the pretext that the tithe was his whole income, and that the rating on the tithe meant not a rate on a part of a man's property, but on the whole? But now the defence is that clergymen have much property besides tithe. How then do they differ in any possible way from lay impropriators who have other property? If the income attached to a benefice is not only tithes,

but consists of other property in addition, what is the meaning of the attempt to connect the income for tithe with services rendered? There is no connection whatever between them. Why should we take a particular bit of property of a particular class of people—for that is what it is reduced to now—and proceed to increase that piece of property by paying half the rates? It is exactly the same as saying that where a part of the income of a benefice is derived from Consols we will pay the income tax on those Consols or raise the interest to 3 per cent. The speech of the right hon. Gentleman has destroyed all connection between tithes and services, and has taken away every pretext for this Bill. It is a frank attempt to increase the value of property which in a certain number of cases is held by clergymen. I was astounded to hear cited as a precedent for this that in certain Acts tithes were exempted from special taxes. Yes, as a kind of property, but those exemptions did not apply only to clergymen. Whoever held the property got the benefit of the exemption, and therefore those Acts were not precedents for clerical endowment Acts.

MR. CRIPPS: The argument of my hon. friend is absolutely inconsistent with every argument he has heretofore urged upon this Bill. The Amendment proposes that the proportion of rate which the owner of tithe rent-charge should be liable to pay should vary according to the amount of that rent-charge. If there is one principle more certain than another it is that when you decide upon the proper way in which certain property should be rated, you must rate it quite irrespective of the amount of the property.

***MR. MOULTON:** And irrespective of the person who holds it.

MR. CRIPPS: Quite true. Supposing you want to apply the true principle of rating so far as tithe rent-charge is concerned. Can you suggest that that prin-

ciple should be differently applied according to the income derived from a particular tithe rent-charge? Where is there any case of such a principle being applied? Whether the property is rated at £1 or £100 you must rate it on the same principle. It is inconceivable that any member who has any knowledge of the subject can support such an Amendment as the one now before the Committee.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT : Limited as we have been in our power of discussing this Bill, the Debate has, at all events, been long enough to enable us entirely to convert the hon. and learned Member for Stroud. In the earlier part of the Debate we attempted to convince him that the rate was upon the property; and not upon the owner. Now he is objecting to this Amendment because that principle is not observed. I have taken my stand upon the ground that it being a tax upon the property you have no right to make any distinction whatever in regard to the persons who benefit from the property. That is the fundamental principle upon which we have argued this matter. The situation in regard to this Amendment is that we are obliged to make the best of this Bill. If you choose to lay down the principle—which we maintain is a false principle—that you have a right to take into consideration, with regard to this tax upon property, the condition of a particular class of persons who enjoy that property, we desire by this Amendment to apply that principle more fairly. If you choose to say that you give this money to the clergy because they stand in a different position from that of all other owners of tithe property, it is quite plain that you ought in dealing with the personal situation of the individuals, to adjust your scheme with due regard to the different position of those individuals. I have said all along that the principle is a rotten one, and that you ought to deal with all tithe property upon the same footing. You have chosen to deny that;

you have selected a particular class to deal with in a different manner from other owners of the same class of property. Having done that, the Amendment proposes that you should make the amount of this bonus correspond to the different positions of the persons who are to receive the money.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: I accept the challenge of the hon. and learned Member for Stroud, and associate myself with the argument of the hon. and learned Member for Launceston. The only point upon which I dissociate myself from him is in his attack on the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill. I think the right hon. Gentleman is the very Member of the Government who really shows that he is the person who ought to be entrusted with the Bill. He knows all about it; he knows that the Bill simply means that half the rates should be given back to every clergyman. He has been equally pleasant to everybody on this side of the House, and he has so excelled in his management of the Bill that he has been able to keep the Solicitor-General, who is bursting with a desire to give information, sitting quietly by his side. If he could only have kept the hon. and learned Member for Stroud as quiet he would have been all right. That hon. Gentleman says, "Can you show me any case in the whole of the law of rating where any difference is made according to the amount of the property?" I would ask him whether he can show me any case in the rating law where two persons in the enjoyment of precisely the same kind of property are treated differently—not only treated by a sliding-scale, but by a sliding-scale which is so favourable to one and so unfavourable to the other that one is put right at the top and the other pushed right to the bottom? Can the hon. and learned Gentleman justify on what he calls the "principle of rating" the omission of a tithe rent-charge owner because he happens not to be a clergyman? The Amendment is a reasonable one in this

Sir William Harcourt.

regard. You say you are going to assist what you call a deserving class of persons. That is perfectly true, but we do not want alms for those who have their pockets well lined. I desire to come to the assistance of the right hon. Gentleman in the matter of drafting. It is the mere changing of a word, and what I desire is to change the words "tithe rent-charge" to "emoluments." I do not know whether the word has gone forth that no Amendment is to be accepted, but that ought not to deter us on this side from doing the best we can for these poor clergymen. I have answered as well as I can the arguments of the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite, who was silent under the argument I put forth—that he cannot justify this proposal by the sacred principle of rating, and I hope we shall not hear much about this principle hereafter. The real question is whether these doles ought to be so given as to meet the real necessities of the case, and that is the principle of the Amendment.

MR. ABEL THOMAS: Now we have got back again to the principle of rating, which is the whole groundwork of the opposition by the hon. and learned Member for Stroud to this Amendment. The rating principle, I understood, was to be brought forward at a later stage upon the whole matter of rating, for it has nothing whatever to do with this Bill. You are now trying to put a stop-gap to help the clergy in the country in order to enable them to pay their rates. I do think that this is one of the most important Amendments which have been put down on the Paper, and I am rather pleased to find that the Government are going to refuse to accept it. I object to the Bill from beginning to end, and the people of the country outside are not talking about the justice or injustice of the rating of tithes, but they are talking about the great difficulty in which the poor clergyman finds himself, because he can scarcely provide food and clothing for himself and his family; and the country want you to relieve these poor

clergymen, and they do not care one scrap about the injustice or the justice of the rating principle itself. It seems to me that the Amendment of my hon. friend is one which every individual constituent of every Member on the other side of the House would like to see carried, and therefore I am only too pleased to think that the Government will not accept this Amendment. This proposal would have been very acceptable to their own constituents, and therefore its non-acceptance will show their supporters the real nature of this Bill. It is all very well for the right hon. Gentleman to say that you cannot measure a clergyman's wealth by the amount of his tithe rent-charge, but the same thing could be said about anybody. Take a man with £2,000 and another with 10s. It is possible that the latter is richer than the former, but you certainly would not rate them in the same way. It seems to me that the really deserving clergyman is only given a very small dole, whilst the rich clergyman, who ought not to have any dole at all, takes ten times as much as the poor clergyman. The effect of the rejection of this Amendment by hon. Members opposite will be noted by the constituencies, and if the Government can see their way to accept this Amendment the better it will be for them when they go to meet their constituents.

MR. STUART: I think it is useless to urge any further objections to the principle of rating. There is only one principle of rating, and that is the one which is applied to the hypothetical tenant. We all know that certain deductions are made from the tithes for the cost of collecting, but that has nothing to do with what a hypothetical tenant might choose to do with it, or for it, and the only principle of rating is distinctly in favour of there being no deduction further than that which is necessary for the tithes. That is perfectly clear, therefore, that this argument cannot be urged against the Amendment of my hon. friend. But this

Bill plunges head foremost through this principle, and it says that we have to consider what the person who is in possession of the property does with it or for it. Let us compare the case of two houses, one of which is bought or rented by a person who pays rent, and the other is held in return for services given to someone else. Those two houses are not rated differently, but under this Bill we are considering a totally different principle. We are considering what the person does who is in possession of the property, and we are breaking through the existing principle of rating. If we are going to relieve impudent clergymen, it is better to adopt this Amendment than to adopt the hard and fast line in the Bill. The Bill gives relief mostly to the larger property, and the intention of this Amendment is to provide that there should be a larger proportion of relief given to the persons with smaller incomes. That is the same principle which is adopted in the income tax and the death duties. When we come to look closely at the Amendment itself as a means of relieving the clergy, I think it is a very great deal better than the proposal which is contained in the Bill, and I do not think that the principle of rating can be urged against this Amendment.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I would point out to the Committee that this proposal is based upon a suggestion made before the Royal Commission by one of the shrewdest members of that Commission. It is true that he signed afterwards the majority Report, but he probably did that with a view of arriving at some kind of common agreement. The suggestion was made by Mr. Elliott that the scale in the Pluralities Act should be applied with a view of ascertaining the amount of relief to be extended to each case. Before the Commission a question was put to a tithe-owner whether he approved of that scale or not, and he said that he did not disapprove of it, and he gave an exceedingly interesting reason why. He said he had received letters from persons saying that

they had heard from Members of Parliament, who had stated that they desired and hoped that this proposal was not going to be a relief entirely for the small livings. The real reason is that hon. Members on the opposite side of the House have written to these people urging that they should not accept the scale which confines the relief to the smaller clergymen, but that they should demand relief all round for the general body of clergy. Therefore it is not the clergy themselves who object to this relief going to their most distressed brethren, but it is gentlemen like the hon. Member for Tunbridge and others, who have written to these clergymen, encouraging them not to accept the scale.

MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge): I have never written any such letter.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I know that the letters referred to, at any rate, have not emanated from this side of the House, and therefore they must have come from the other side. I will read the words again. They state:

"They have written saying that they have heard from Members of Parliament, that they hoped that the relief which is to be given is not going to be entirely a relief for the smaller livings."

In the Appendix to the Report of the Commissioners there is one case given which will show how this Bill will work if the Amendment is not accepted. The case I allude to is one where the gross tithe is £1,300. After making every deduction for rates, curates, and every possible deduction for the repair of the church there is a net income of £700 a year. Now the relief which that clergyman will get under this Bill will be £74, whilst in the case of a clergyman whose income is only £116, he will only get relief to the amount of £2 16s.—that is to

Mr. Lloyd-George.

say, the man with £700 a year gets £74, but the man with £116 a year only gets £2 16s. out of the Bill. Can there possibly be a stronger argument in favour of this Amendment? One of the witnesses gave an answer which bears very strongly upon this Amendment, for he said that : "It very often happens that the man who does the most work has the least salary." In spite of that, the man who does the most work gets £2 16s. under this Bill, and the man who does the least work gets £74. I am glad my hon. friend has proposed this Amendment, because it shows the utter hollowness of the case for this Bill, which has no basis in justice or fair play, for the men with the big salaries get the most relief.

MR. SPICER (Monmouth Boroughs): I beg to move, Sir, that you report Progress. This measure, after all, is not one which has been called for by any strong expression of opinion from the country. When it is being introduced to this House one prominent Member of the Unionist Party leaves that Party, and even his constituency do not venture to fight the seat again. In the same county a political contest is fought for two seats, and the two Unionist candidates are —

***THE CHAIRMAN**: The hon. Member must confine his remarks to the Amendment.

MR. SPICER: I am addressing myself to my motion to report Progress.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: I am afraid that I cannot accept a motion to report Progress at this stage, for we are now within ten minutes of the ordinary time for adjournment.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Stockport): I have listened with a great deal of attention to the speeches which have been delivered by the hon. Member for the Stroud Division, and there appears to

be one chord which runs through the whole of his speeches. The hon. and learned Member is a great apostle of the doctrine of equality in rating.

MR. CRIPPS: Hear, hear.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY: The hon. and learned Member accepts that proposition, and I hope he will be able to justify it. I venture to say that this Bill is an entirely revolutionary measure, for it destroys once and for ever all uniformity and all equality in rating. It helps one particular kind of property, and out of that kind one particular section of it. The measure lays down that all the possible benefits which we are able to shower and all the money we can expend—not out of the taxpayers' pockets, but out of the ratepayers' pockets, some of whom are already paying rates to the extent of 6s., 8s., and 10s. in the £—shall be showered upon this one particular section of this one particular class of property. And upon what principle? Why, simply upon the great principle of services rendered. I have had some connection with rating authorities, for I have been a

member of a very large rating authority, and I have been connected with the Association of Municipal Corporations for the last fifteen years. I want to ask the hon. and learned Member opposite, or any Member connected with a rating authority, if ever they heard anything whatever of the question of services rendered when they came to consider questions of rating. Let the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite go to the Town Clerk of Liverpool—or of Leeds or Nottingham—and ask him what he thinks of the doctrine of services rendered where a rating question is concerned. The proposal is a monstrous and absolutely ridiculous doctrine, and, to use the words of Mr. W. S. Gilbert, it is dragged in “merely to lend an air of artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative.” That narrative is the Bill which we now have before this House.

Question put, “That the words ‘one-half’ stand part of the clause.”

The Committee proceeded to a Division:—Ayes, 228; Noes, 125. (Division List, No. 241.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus	Hen. Eden	Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Drucker, A.
Anson, Sir William	Reynell	Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Archdale, Edward	Mervyn	Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
Arnold, Alfred		Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)	Elliot, Hon. A. R. Douglas
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.		Chamberlain, J. Aust'n (Worc'r)	Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John		Charrington, Spencer	Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man.)
Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy		Clare, Octavius Leigh	Finch, George H.
Baillie, Jas. E. B. (Inverness)		Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Baird, John Geo. Alexander		Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	Fisher, William Hayes
Balcars, Lord		Coghill, Douglas Harry	Fison, Frederick William
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)		Colston, Charles E. H. Athole	FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)		Compton, Lord Alwyne	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Banbury, Frederick George		Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell		Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)	Galloway, William Johnson
Barton, Dunbar Plunket		Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	Garfit, William
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)		Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.	Gedge, Sydney
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe		Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.		Cranborne, Viscount	Gibbs, Hon. V. (St. Albans)
Bethell, Commander		Cripps, Charles Alfred	Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Bigwood, James		Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Gilliat, John Saunders
Bill, Charles		Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)	Gosden, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Blundell, Colonel Henry		Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Goldworthy, Major-General
Bond, Edward		Curzon, Viscount	Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme		Dalkeith, Earl of	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-		Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo's)
Brassey, Albert		Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John		Denny, Colonel	Goulding, Edward Alfred
Brookfield, A. Montagu		Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Graham, Henry Robert
Bullard, Sir Harry		Digby, John K. D. Wingfield	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Burdett-Coutts, W.		Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Butcher, John George		Dorington, Sir John Edward	Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Carlile, William Walter		Doughty, George	Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)		Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers	Gretton, John
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)		Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	Gull, Sir Cameron
Cayzer, Sir Charles William		Doxford, William Theodore	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles

Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hill, Sir Edward S. (Bristol)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. W. E. H.
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)

M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Ed'n'b'gh, W.
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett C. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hon. F. (Monm'tsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. S.
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James

Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbys.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormiston)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphrey N.
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allen, Wm. (Newc. under Lyme)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hen.
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Crilly, Daniel
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.

Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (South ton)
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gordon, Sir Wm. Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry

Lambert, George
 Langley, Betty
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Q.C.)
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, W. Prichard (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)

Perks, Robert William
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Randell, David
Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)

Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spicer, Albert
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wedderburn, Sir William

Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'sd)
Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr M'Arthur.

It being after Midnight, the Chairman proceeded to interrupt the business; whereupon Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question 'That the words of the clause to the word "and" in line 8 stand part of the clause' be now put."

MR. D. A. THOMAS: On a point of order, I should like to ask if there is any precedent for moving the closure in this way after midnight. This motion is not consequential in any way on the question before the Committee when the last Division was taken, and as the closure was not moved before Twelve o'clock, I desire to

ask if there is any precedent for moving it after Twelve o'clock.

*THE CHAIRMAN: This is not a consequential Amendment, but it is quite in order to move the closure on the interruption of business even after Midnight.

Question put, "That the question 'That the words of the clause to the word "and" in line 8 stand part of the clause' be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes 224,
Noes 104. (Division List, No. 242.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell	Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)	Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc.)
Arnold, Alfred	Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)	Finch, George H.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Charrington, Spencer	Finlay, Sir R. Bannatyne
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Clare, Octavius Leigh	Fisher, William Hayes
Bagoz, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)	Fison, Frederick William
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)	Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Baird, John George Alexander	Coghill, Douglas Harry	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Balcarres, Lord	Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole	Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)	Compton, Lord Alwyn	Galloway, William Johnson
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Garfit, William
Banbury, Frederick George	Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)	Gedge, Sydney
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.	Gibbs, Hon. V. (St. Albans)
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bris.)	Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Bemrose, Sir Henry Lowe	Cranborne, Viscount	Gilliat, John Saunders
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Cripps, Charles Alfred	Godson, Sir A. Frederick
Bethell, Comander	Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Goldsworthy, Major-General
Bigwood, James	Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)	Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Bill, Charles	Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Curzon, Vicount	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo.'s)
Bond, Edward	Dalkeith, Earl of	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Bonsor, Henry Coemo Orme	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Goulding, Edward Alfred
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Brassey, Albert	Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Green, W. D. (Wednesday)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-	Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Greene, W. R. (Cambs.)
Bullard, Sir Harry	Dorington, Sir John Edward	Gretton, John
Burdett-Coutts, W.	Doughty, George	Gull, Sir Cameron
Butcher, John George	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Carlile, William Walter	Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Doxford, William Theodore	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Drucker, A.	Hanson, Sir Reginald
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Hare, Thomas Leigh
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart	Helder, Augustus
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)	Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.	Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)

Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. L. R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. W. Edw. H.
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'ns'a)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpl.)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edin'b'rgh, W)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hon. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.

Milbank, Sir Powl'tt Chas. John
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Montagu, Hon. J. S. (Hants)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hon. Fred (Monm'tshn.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Savory, Sir Joseph

Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edw. ard T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Ox'd. Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dor-set)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arey
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allen, W. (Newc. under Lyme)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. Henry
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Crilly, Daniel
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Sam. T. (Glamorgan)
 Ferguson, R. C. M. (Leith)

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir William B.
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Battv
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Logan, John William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr M.A. (Queen's C)
 Mc'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry

Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nunney, Thomas Willans
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Phillip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stratchey, Edward
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)

Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whitley, George (Stockport)

Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'sf'd)

Question put accordingly, "That the words of the clause to the word 'and' in line 8 stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes 224, Noes 100. (Division List, No. 243.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
 Baird, John (George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gore
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Brit.)
 Benrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Bonson, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
 Cornwallis, Fienne Stanley W.
 Cotton, Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)

Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
 Ferguson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Fitzgerald, Sir Robt. Pearson
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gedje, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. (St. George's
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. R. - (Cambs.)
 Grattan, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lt. George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Helder, Augustus
 Hill, Sir Edward S. (Bristol)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. L. R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.

Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. W. Edw. H.
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw's'a)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 Maciver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powl'tt Chas. John
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
 More, Col. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monm'thsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander

Woods, Samuel

SELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur.

Richardson, Sir Thos (Hartlep' l)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)

Stanley, Hn Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlins n, W. E. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-

Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
 Whitmore, Charlee Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestershr. N)
 Wodehouse, Rt Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D' Arcy
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AVES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allen, W. (Newc.-under-Lyme)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas Derbyshire
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Crilly, Daniel
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
 Griffith, Ellis J.

Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale-
 Hazel, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Willian (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Battv
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Logan, John William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. MA (Queen's C)
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)

Provand, Andrew Drybrough
 Randell, David
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarsh.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Strachey, Edward
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (H'd'drsf'd
 Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur.

Whereupon the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) [SALARIES, &c.]

Resolution reported:—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment out of moneys to be provided by Parliament of a salary not exceeding £1,200, together with a residential allowance not exceeding £150, to the

Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the salaries and remuneration to the secretary, assistant secretaries, inspectors, officers, and servants of the Department, and of all expenses incurred by the Department in pursuance of any Act of the present Session for establishing a Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction in Ireland."

Resolution agreed to.

Hous: adjourned at twenty-five minutes before one of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 12th July 1899.—
PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.
—

LEITH HARBOUR AND DOCKS BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

BRIGHTON MARINE PALACE AND PIER BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

GREENOCK AND PORT GLASGOW TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (PILOTAGE) BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; an Amendment made ; Bill to be read the third time.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

WORKINGTON CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Report [11th July] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

—
PETITIONS.
—

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petitions for alteration of Law :—From Cathcart and Stonehouse ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Liverpool, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Petitions against :—From Burnley, Leslie, and Nelson ; to lie upon the Table.

VOL. LXXIV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

—
SEA FISHERIES ACT, 1868.

Copy presented,—of Report of the Board of Trade under Part III. of the Act. Orders for Fishery Grants, 1898-9 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 276.]

—
METROPOLITAN POLICE (SALARIES) BILL.

Order for Second Reading To-morrow read, and discharged :—Bill withdrawn.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Considered in Committee :—

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 :—

The first two Amendments on the Paper were the following—

“ Clause 1, page 1, line 8, after ‘rent-charge’ insert ‘provided the county council of any county determine by resolution that the provisions herein contained shall for the time being, and until the resolution is rescinded, apply.’”—(*Mr. Labouchere.*)

“ Clause 1, page 1, line 8, after ‘rent-charge’ insert ‘provided such tithe rent-charge does not exceed half the annual value of the land.’”—(*Mr. Labouchere.*)

*THE CHAIRMAN : The first two Amendments on the Paper are those which were passed over yesterday in the circumstances that arose. If they are to be considered at all, I think they ought to come in as provisos at the end of the whole clause.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) : May I say on that subject that I am in a very unfortunate position ? I first put down my Amendment at the commencement of the clause, and you, Sir, ruled that it would be right to bring it in after the word “benefice.” I bowed, of course, to your decision. But that was rendered impossible owing to the closure. I then put it down after “only,” but I was precluded from doing that because the closure was carried again. I have, therefore, put it down after “rent-charge,” in line 4 of the clause. As these closures take place it may be possible that I shall be unable to bring on this valuable Amendment as a proviso at the end of the clause. I

had to lay my egg, so to speak, while the hen was still sitting. I have been moved on with my Amendment as if I were some disreputable person in the street, and I hope I shall be allowed to move it as it stands on the Paper.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If I may be allowed to do so, I would suggest to the hon. Member that his remedy is to persuade the hen not to sit too long, and then perhaps his egg will not be addled. Its proper place is at the end of the clause, as he knows.

MR. LABOUCHERE: From a literary point of view only.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I look at it from the point of order, which is not exactly the same point.

MR. LAMBERT(Devon, South Molton): The second of the two Amendments is mine, although, unfortunately, my name is not put to it. Shall I be allowed, at any rate, to discuss this Amendment at the end of the clause?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I think I ought to be very chary of making any such promise. It might land me and the Committee in great difficulties.

*MR. L. R. HOLLAND(Tower Hamlets, Bow): In rising to move the Amendment which stands in my name, let me say at the outset that I have no sympathy whatever with the attacks which have been made on the principle of this Bill. In face of the authority with which that principle is supported, I personally do not contest its justice. But what I quarrel with is not the general intention of the Bill but the financial provisions contained in the latter part of this clause, and I hope that the Government may see their way to alter those provisions so that the compensation for the loss with regard to exemptions on clerical tithe shall be made up in the locality which is affected to the extent to which it is affected, or if that is not acceptable it shall be made up in some other way than that provided in the Bill. I maintain that every substantial argument which has been urged from this side of the House in favour of the general principle of the Bill, and in favour of the justice of giving this relief, equally condemns the method by which

that relief is to be obtained. If we accept, as I do, the justice and soundness of this argument, we are of necessity compelled to condemn the financial arrangements of this clause as unjust and unsound. Our contention on this side of the House is that this Bill has been produced not as a matter of charity or favour, but as a matter of bare justice. It is not brought forward on the plea of the poverty of the clergy, for poor and rich alike will share equally the benefits of the measure. My right hon. friend the President of the Board of Agriculture has declared that if it is not true that the clergy, in districts where their incomes are derived from tithes, pay an unjust share of the local burdens, then there is no case whatever for this Bill. That is the ground, and the only ground, upon which the Government have, as I think rightly, supported this Bill. The clergy, in certain localities, are paying more than their fair share of the local rates, and have been doing it for many years—for the last sixty years at any rate; and if that is so, if it is true that certain individuals in a locality are paying more than their fair share, then it must be equally true that others in the same locality are paying less than their fair share, and have, during a long period of years, been benefited to the extent of several millions of pounds, taken out of the pockets of the clergy. In any district in which the clerical income is dependent on tithe, for every penny which the clergy have paid in excess of their fair contribution, the lay ratepayers in that district have paid an equal amount less than their fair contribution. The only just system of local rating is that every individual in the locality should pay his fair share; neither more nor less. But what does this Bill do? The grievance, as regards the clergy, is substantially remedied; but how? Not by throwing the cost upon the general body of the ratepayers of the district, and by saying that in future they shall pay their fair contribution, but by shifting the injustice from the backs of the clergy upon the innocent ratepayers in towns and districts where there are no clerical tithe ratepayers, who have not been benefited by this unfair incidence of rates, and who have all along, and are now, paying their fair and full proportion of the local rates of those districts. For instance I turn to the case of London. I do not take it

Mr. Labouchere.

because it is a very extreme case, for I have been told of instances where the inequality is still greater. I find the total amount of rateable tithe in London is £5,700, even assuming, which I am by no means certain is the case, that all that tithe is attached to benefices. The rate payable upon that tithe is £1,800, so that the total exemption that the clergy in the County of London will obtain under the Bill is £900. We are told that the whole amount required for England and Wales will be £87,000, and, of course, if the rates increase the sum required will increase proportionately. The money is to be taken out of the Estate Duty Grant. That grant is apportioned by Statute, and by Statute and in equity 22 per cent. of the grant goes to London to be applied to purposes for which it is allocated. Thus £19,000 out of the £87,000 belongs to London. The London ratepayers are to be asked to pay £19,000, which represents an increase in the rates of one-eighth of a penny in the pound, so that some thirty individuals shall receive in all £900. My right hon. friend the President of the Board of Agriculture rather indicated to the House that this £87,000 was to come out of some surplus in the local taxation account. But there is no such surplus. The estate duty, like any other revenue, fluctuates from year to year. Last year it rose by £280,000, but the year before it fell off by £76,000. It is no excuse to say that this fund has been raided before. I imagine it is the view of hon. Members on this side of the House that if a bad precedent is set by a Radical Government there should not be a burning desire on our part to follow it. But at any rate the circumstances are not the same. It can be fairly argued that protection against pleuro-pneumonia and swine fever was a matter of interest and importance to the whole country, urban as well as rural, and that expenditure upon it might be considered as adding another to those services for which the Estate Duty Grant was already allocated. I do not think the contention can be advanced that the fund has swollen beyond all anticipation; but if it is the fact, then these balances should revert to the tax-payers to be applied for their benefit. The Estate Duty Grant is allocated to certain purposes, like the police, in lieu of the Exchequer Grants, which were made before the year 1888, and it is possible that, in this case, Lon-

don is worse off under the present system, than she would have been under the old one had the system of Exchequer Grants been continued. There is no doubt, at any rate, that the increase in this Estate Duty Grant has not kept pace with the necessarily increased expenditure on the services to which it has to be applied. Last year the amount received under this grant was £85,000 more than in 1889; whereas the cost of the services had increased by no less than £136,000. £65,000 of that increase was attributable to the Metropolitan Police, and, as the Committee are aware, the County Council have no control over the expenditure on that force. What will be the result of the operation of the Bill is clear. When the County Council makes up its budget or revises the rate for the ensuing half-year it fixes it subject to the estimate of the amount it will receive from the Estate Duty Grant, and obviously in districts where the clerical tithe does not exist, London ratepayers will be required to pay an increased rate of one-eighth of a penny in the £, although they are heavily enough rated already. It must be remembered that rates in London are not merely represented by 2s. 6d. in the £. In some districts they rise to 8s. in the £, and yet these unfortunate ratepayers are to be called upon to pay an extra sum, not for the benefit of the necessitous clergy, or of the poorer clergy in their own districts, but to enable other ratepayers who are not more heavily rated to continue to pay less than their fair and just share of their own local rates. That seems to me to be a pretty cool demand to make on the ground of justice. On what recommendation or on what reason it is based I confess I have not been able to discover. The ground is not to be found in any recommendation contained in the majority Report of the Royal Commission. Certainly that Report admits the justice of this claim for relief, but there is no suggestion as to from what source the relief should be obtained, and I think the natural inference to be drawn from that Report, and more especially from the addendum signed by the hon. Member for Stroud, by Sir John Hibbert and by Mr. Murray, was that they considered that this was a local question, and that any loss which was made in one direction should be recouped, like any other local deduction, out of the rates in the same locality. If

there is a revaluation of property in a parish, and it is found that some of the property has been over-assessed, the rate-payers of a district do not go cadging round in adjoining districts in order to make up the deficiency caused by the reduction of the assessment. They make it up themselves. My hon. and learned friend the Member for Plymouth, in his speech on the Second Reading, quoted the decision of a court of law in 1880. But if that decision had been upheld, the relief granted, as proposed in this Bill, should fall automatically on the general body of ratepayers in the same district, and I believe the same principle was applied in Scotland. The only argument which gives colourable justice to the financial propositions of this Bill may be found in the memorandum of the hon. Member for East Donegal, who suggested that the relief should be thrown upon Imperial taxation. But the Government are absolutely precluded from accepting that view, because the President of the Board of Agriculture has stated emphatically that it would not be fair to throw the burden on general taxation, and that the taxpayers of Scotland and Ireland should not be called upon to pay for relief given only in England. If that be true of taxpayers in Ireland and Scotland it is equally true of taxpayers or ratepayers in districts in England where there are no tithes, or only a small amount. It is not fair to call upon them to pay for the benefit of taxpayers in other districts. I voted for every stage of the Agricultural Rating Bill. I quite disagree with the views expressed by the hon. Member for Stockport that the only Bills deserving of support are Bills which confer a direct benefit on Stockport. But I voted for the Agricultural Rating Bill on the understanding that the whole question of rating was going to be overhauled, and that the inequitable system which now prevails was to be reviewed, and that every endeavour would be made to see whether personal property should not be drawn in and made to pay its fair share of the local rates. I confess it is unfortunate that this great question should be treated in this piecemeal fashion, but the appointment of the Royal Commission was a guarantee of good faith on the part of the Government. Personally, I bowed to the opinion of the Government that the necessities of the

agricultural community were so great and acute that they could not afford to wait for the Report of the Royal Commission, and that the only way to get a certain contribution from personal property to the rates was to throw the cost on imperial taxation. But I cannot acquiesce in the quite different proposal in this Bill — viz., that money which legally and equitably belongs to ratepayers in a district where clerical tithe does not exist or is very small should be taken away from them not for the benefit of the poor clergy—you might appeal to the generosity of local taxpayers for that purpose—but to enable the ratepayers in other districts, perhaps less heavily burdened than themselves, to continue to pay less than their fair share of their own local burdens. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture rather indicated to a deputation the other day that, after all, this injustice—of course, the right hon. Gentleman did not admit it was an injustice—would only continue for about two years. Is injustice to be weighed by the length of time it is to exist? If it is unjust to take £87,000 for a long period from a certain body of individuals it cannot be said to be just to take £200,000 from the same body for only two years. Can the Government pledge themselves that this is only a temporary measure, or that when the Report of the Royal Commission is issued they will introduce legislation on the subject, or can they bind their successors? If there is not legislation, is this House to allow this Act to lapse, and allow the clergy once more to suffer from a grievance which I believe to be real? I ask the Government to reconsider the financial proposals of this clause with a view to seeing whether the deductions should not be allowed to be adjusted in the natural course out of the local rates, or to adopting some alternative arrangement, such as spreading the loss over the county area. For myself, while fully sympathising with the main principles of the Bill, I cannot possibly support the financial proposals in this clause. They are inequitable in themselves, and contradictory to every argument which has been used to support the justice of the Bill. I move, Sir.

Mr. L. R. Holland.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out from the word 'rent-charge,' to the end of the clause."
—(Mr. L. R. Holland.)

Question proposed :—"That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'out,' in line 10, stand part of the clause."

MR. WARNER (Stafford, Lichfield): Does that not cut out a number of Amendments?

***The CHAIRMAN:** If the Committee decides to accept the Amendment then all the other Amendments come on in succession. But if the Committee assents to the principle of the money being paid out of the Local Taxation Account and out of no other fund, then all the other Amendments go.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): On a point of order, Sir, is it not the usual practice in putting the question to save any subsequent substantial Amendments?

***The CHAIRMAN:** That is what I have done. That is why I have not put the whole of the words. I have put them down to the point where the next substantial Amendment arises.

***MR. ERNEST GRAY** (West Ham, N.): The right hon. Gentleman, the First Lord of the Treasury, has justified this Bill on the simple ground of justice. He contends that some ratepayers have for many years been contributing more than their fair equitable share to the cost of their districts. If that be so it is perfectly obvious that some persons have benefited by the existence of that injustice, and it is equally obvious that they must be the other ratepayers within the same rating area; and if these other ratepayers have benefited by the injustice which we now seek to remove is it not perfectly clear that it is they who should now bear the burden which they ought to have borne years ago? I do not think that even the argumentative skill of the First Lord of the Treasury would ever convince me that the taxpayers of London have benefited by the abnormal amount of rate paid by the clergy in, for instance, the Tunbridge Division. The other taxpayers in the division have benefited, but the working men in our

great boroughs have not gained any benefit whatever from the excessive rate paid by the clergy in country districts. I, like my hon. friend who moved the Amendment, supported this Bill on the Second Reading. I have supported it in every stage so far, because I believe it to be a simple act of justice, too long delayed; but when we come to deal with the financial arrangements by which it is proposed to remove the injustice, surely one may then be entitled to exercise to some extent one's own judgment. I recognise the strength of the claim brought forward by the Government. The injustice is admitted by this Government, by this Party, and by both party organisations, in some districts at least. It has been argued at length by the Royal Commission, and even the hon. Member for Hoxton the other evening did not deny that an injustice had been inflicted on the clergy, for I understood him to say that the proper method of redress was by assessment. The Amendment would have that effect, because it would throw on the other ratepayers in a rating area the duty of making good the sum remitted off the tithe-rent charge, and to that extent would be an alteration in assessment—if not in theory, certainly in result. It seems to me to be a very narrow issue indeed. The Amendment cannot be regarded as frivolous, because it raises a very substantial point, so great, in fact, that the rating authority of London has felt justified in sending a deputation direct to the Minister in charge of the Bill. I cannot feel that the right hon. Gentleman in any way met the arguments of that deputation. The case of swine fever is not on the same footing as the alteration proposed in this Bill. London and the large boroughs have gained by the imposition of the charge in connection with swine fever, and therefore ought to bear part of the cost, but I do not think anyone will be able to convince the ordinary taxpayer in a borough where there is no tithe rent-charge whatever that he receives any benefit under this Bill. I quite agree that, if this were a national charge, it would be right that the country districts and the towns should stand or fall together, but this is a mere question of the alteration of a small portion of the rates in a narrow rating area, and it seems to me to be obviously just that the ratepayers who have

benefited in the past should themselves bear the burden now. I cannot understand how anyone can withstand this Amendment. I am a strong supporter of the main intention of the Bill, but I join issue with the Government in the way they propose to carry it out. It is said that the Bill is only to last for two years, and that the whole question will have to be overhauled at the end of that time; but that is no argument in favour of removing injustice for that period from the shoulders of a certain class of rate-payers in order to put it on the shoulders of another. The issue is a narrow one, but I do not think any apology is needed for urging on the attention of the Committee our contention that those who have benefited in the past should now bear this financial burden. My own impression is that the National Taxation account ought not to be touched, for this is a pure rating question. Certain ratepayers are to be benefited, and certain ratepayers ought to bear the burden of the charge. That is a simple argument which I desire very urgently to press on the attention of the Government. I can understand the ordinary skilled artisan who reads these Debates, and tries to argue out the question for himself. You may easily convince him that certain ratepayers have paid more than they ought to have paid. All the arguments brought forward on the other side never met that one point. Any number of collateral issues have been discussed, but the one narrow question whether or not certain clergy have paid more than they ought to pay, having regard to their interest in the district, and having regard to the property possessed in that district, has never been met.

HON. MEMBERS : Oh, oh !

*MR. ERNEST GRAY : I do not say that there has not been an immense amount of discussion around it, but no one has taken the position of a clergyman paying his rates, and compared it with that of another ratepayer. It is ridiculous to say that because a man takes office knowing what burdens will fall upon him he shall not ask for relief from any of these burdens. There is hardly a man throughout the country who does not come forward with the cry "I have paid more than my share of the taxes." Civil servants take their appointment knowing what they were to receive, and yet claims

Mr. Ernest Gray.

are constantly made, and appeals made to the Treasury from that side of the House and from this, for an increase of their salaries. Departmental Committee after Departmental Committee have been appointed to inquire whether or not these people are being fairly treated, having regard to all the surrounding circumstances in which they live. Instead of a Departmental Committee a Royal Commission was appointed in this case to inquire into the condition of certain ratepayers as compared with other ratepayers. The Commission comes forward with a clear decision and definite recommendations, and Her Majesty's Government have taken the matter up to settle it. As to the method by which the redress of this grievance of the clergy is to be brought about, I hold that the ordinary artisan would clearly recognise that some relief may be given, but you will never convince him that it is right to take that relief out of his pocket. I appeal to the Government to give this financial arrangement their reconsideration. This is not a capricious or frivolous Amendment. It raises an important point in which the ratepayers of the country are taking a very keen and earnest interest. The Government have now an opportunity of so amending their Bill as to make it, in my opinion, generally acceptable, and I trust they will not reject the appeal made to them.

MR. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton) : I will not follow the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken in opening up a Second Reading discussion of the Bill. The House and the country know and can judge whether the arguments which have been adduced on this side of the House are sound or not. It is a fact that the House, so far as it has gone, has clearly determined that relief is to be given to the clergy, and we must now direct our attention to the manner in which that relief is to be provided. There are two arguments on which this relief can be based, and by which it can be supported. The first is that it is a relief of clergy who are suffering from poverty, and the second is that it is a readjustment, or correction, of a rating injustice. Now, if it be the first of these, it could be reasonably argued that it was a national concern. That was how it was argued in the case of the Agricultural Rating Act. The Government and their supporters

have, however, chosen to support this Bill on the ground that a rating injustice has long existed upon the tithe-owning clergy. When we come to look at it in that light we are thrown back to ask who has been profiting by that injustice. Clearly, it is the ratepayers in the district in which these clergy are who have suffered, whether you take it as a parish, a union, or a county. In all of three cases the ratepayers have obtained an advantage from the suffering of the clergy, and the relief of the clergy ought to be thrown upon the county, union, or parish. As I understand it, if this Amendment were carried, the burden would be thrown on the parish. I have an Amendment myself, which may be cut out by the necessity of putting the question, that the burden should be thrown on the county. It is perfectly clear that the view of the Royal Commission so far as expressed definitely—it is a mere chance that it was not expressed much more definitely—is in favour of this being made an assessment question. Yet we are now told that we are not to deal with it as a matter of assessment, but as a remission of rates. If you remit half the rates of the clergy it is practically throwing on the parish the half of the assessment. I do not see how that argument can be logically replied to. I do not see how it can be argued that this is a national matter, or that the nation has profited by a mere incidence of rates upon the tithe-owning clergy, or how the nation can be called upon to pay. I wish to bring before the House some of the glaring anomalies which will arise under the scheme of the Government. London, as the House well knows, is to be mulcted in £19,100 for the relief of the clergy, while the London tithe-owning clergy will after all only receive £900. Similar inequalities would exist in all the great boroughs in England; but I wish to direct attention to the anomalies which will arise in some of the counties. Let me take first the County of Norfolk, with which I am intimately acquainted. The figures are verified from two different sources. The contribution of Norfolk towards the purposes of the Bill will be £1,288, but no less than £7,308 is the amount to be given to the tithe-owning clergy of the county. In other words, Norfolk will profit by this £7,308 being distributed among the tithe-owning

clergy, and will only pay £1,288. Now, if the argument of the Government is correct, Norfolk has been profiting for many years to the extent of £7,308 by the unjust rating of the clergy, and it is only going to redress that injustice, by which it itself has profited, by the payment of £1,288. Then let me take the County of Monmouth, and compare it with the County of Norfolk. The contribution that the County of Monmouth will have to give towards this £87,000 will be £661, and the amount that it will receive will be £619. In other words, the County of Monmouth is being dealt with on a principle of fairness. Compare that with the County of Norfolk. The contribution of Norfolk towards the purposes of the Bill will be £1,288 per annum; but aid to the extent of £7,308 per annum is to be given to the tithe-owning clergy in that county—that is to say, Norfolk profits to the extent of £7,308 by the unjust rating of the clergy, and will only pay £1,288 towards the redress of the injustice. The County of Monmouth stands almost alone amongst the counties of England, except the County of London, in having to pay more than it will receive. But perhaps the most remarkable instance is the County of Suffolk. The Committee know that the figures I am bringing forward depend upon the amount of tithe attached to benefices, and the right hon. Gentleman knows perfectly well that the Eastern Counties are very rich in tithe. Suffolk will be mulcted under this Bill of only £791, and the amount which it will receive will be £5,583, or about seven times as much as it is called upon to pay. And where is the difference to come from? It is to come from the boroughs of this country. All the boroughs in this country fall into the same category of having to pay a much larger sum than they will receive in aid, and, above all, the County of London. The County of London will have to pay £19,105, though at no time in the history of the County of London, or even before it was a county, has it ever profited by this unfair rating of tithes attached to benefices to a greater extent than £900 a year. The case of London is, of course, the most striking case, but all the boroughs of England are more or less affected in the same way. How can the Government defend these anomalies? If this was a grant in aid of poverty, if it had been conceded that the

Church of England was so much in need of money that something must be done for it, it might then have been argued that the Church of England is a national institution—I do not admit the propriety of the claim—and that this was a claim that ought to come on the nation as a whole. But that is not the argument that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill and the Leader of the House have chosen to take. We tried to force them into this argument, but without avail ; they stuck to their point. You are, therefore, adding to the vexed and miserable muddle of local taxation, and you are making the problems with which the Royal Commission will have to deal much more entangled than they were before. You are not doing what the Royal Commission asked. The Royal Commission suggested that this should have been treated as a local assessment question, but the Bill mixes it with one of Imperial finance. An hon. Gentleman asked if the Government meant to make this a temporary measure, and I was afraid he was going to say that if they were he would put up with the anomaly ; but if he had sat, as I have done, on the Royal Commission he would have seen the fallacy and ridiculousness of saying that measures like this can be temporary measures. I have no intention to weary the House, but I want to give a few more instances of the inequality of rating. Take, for instance, the County of Essex. Essex will profit to the amount of £5,724 out of tithes attached to benefices, but it has only to pay under this Bill £2,479. Again, Kent will receive £5,179, and will only pay £2,688, while Hertfordshire, which will receive £1,572, will only pay £757. I have already mentioned Norfolk and Suffolk. I bring forward the County of Norfolk with some hesitation, because I am a large ratepayer there, and I happen to be a very small ratepayer in the County of London. At the same time, I am deeply interested in the amendment of the whole law relating to local taxation, and I appeal to every Member on both sides of the House whether I have not always tried to treat the question apart from party considerations. I am, however, bound to say that you are entangling our hands extremely in dealing with this question by this Bill.

*MR. DAVID MACIVER (Liverpool Kirkdale) : I regard this Amendment as a
Mr. Stuart.

most mischievous Amendment. Representing as I do a large urban constituency, I cannot but think that the working men in my constituency are able to take a reasonable view of this question, and that they will not listen to the misrepresentations which have been so freely made on the other side with regard to this Bill. A great many working men in my constituency are perfectly well able to understand that this measure, as a whole, is nothing but an endeavour to remedy a very great injustice. It may be a partial and incomplete remedy, and one which does not go far enough ; but that the Bill, as a whole, is one which ought to be passed I have no doubt whatever, and I am equally confident that large constituencies such as that I represent will approve of it. Could anything be more unjust than to disregard what is the cause of the depreciation and loss of revenue in respect of tithes ? It is largely the result of the depreciation of the value of agricultural land, and that, in turn, is the result of the fiscal system which this country has followed—a system which is supposed to benefit the urban constituencies. Is it right that the loss should fall principally upon those counties which are already suffering from the depression of agriculture ? I say that this question is a national one, and that the country, as a whole, ought to come forward to remedy this growing injustice of rating. This is but one of many questions, but I am quite sure that the experience of the Committee, from the endless discussion that there has been upon some of the Amendments, and the prospect of very large discussion upon others, must show everyone what difficulty there would have been in passing a large and comprehensive measure of local taxation reform. The necessity, however, remains for dealing with the question as a whole. This measure as it stands is a step in the right direction, and I hope that when the Report of the Commissioners is presented in a complete shape it will be found possible for hon. Members opposite to forget electioneering, and to consider how best to deal with the question of the reform of local taxation. Once more I say that I cannot help feeling that this is a great national question. It is absolutely true that the clergy in many parts of this country are most unreasonably suffering at the present time. It is perfectly true, as everybody who has

listened to these Debates will be ready to admit, that this question cannot be dealt with effectively this session, but it must be dealt with generally at no very distant date. My impression is that this Bill does not go far enough, for it only partially remedies one real grievance. There are many other grievances, and I hope the time is not far distant when the whole question will be dealt with. I hope the Government will not give way on this Amendment.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down stated that working men would not listen to the misrepresentations as to the objects of this Bill which had been indulged in by hon. Members on this side of the House, for they recognised that the clergy were suffering from an injustice. I do not know upon what information he relies in making that statement in regard to the working men of England. Certainly the working men of Oldham do not appear to share that opinion, and we shall see to-day whether it is shared by the working men of East St. Pancras. The issue raised by this Amendment is not whether the clergy are unjustly rated or not; that has been decided, but I desire to return to the speeches delivered a few moments ago by the hon. Gentleman the Member for West Ham and my hon. friend the Member for Bow and Bromley, which I thought was a singularly lucid and most convincing speech. I do not agree with the premisses with which the hon. Member started, namely, that the clergy are unjustly rated. It did seem to me that if the premisses with which the hon. Member started were sound his conclusions would be absolutely irresistible. He said that if the clergy had been paying too much, then it was clear that the fellow-ratepayers of the clergy in the same rating area had been paying too little, and, therefore, he arrived at the conclusion that if you are going to relieve the clergy, in order to find the funds for that relief you ought to impose a corresponding burden upon the ratepayers of the same area. That is a straightforward course, but it is not the course which the Government have adopted, and why? Because it would not be tolerated by those ratepayers, and therefore what the Government propose is to lay the burden, not upon the neighbours of the clergy or their fellow-

ratepayers, but to lay that burden upon a totally different set of ratepayers with whom the clergymen have nothing in common. Under this Bill the case of the ratepayers of London is a singularly hard one. It appears that there are £1,800 paid annually in rates upon the tithe rent-charge throughout the whole of London, and for that London is to be called upon to pay £19,000. It would be better to take the tithe rent-charge in London out of the rating altogether, for it would pay us very much better to adopt that course. It will be said that this would be another anomaly. Yes, I admit it would be, but the whole Bill itself is an anomaly, and why strain at a gnat when you are willing to swallow the camel? Already a large proportion of the London tithe is not rated. Everybody knows the number of churches there are in London, and the bulk of London tithes is not rateable, and as this is so it is quite a practical expedient to alter the exception so as to coincide with the rule. Whereas the London clergy will only benefit to the extent of £900, London will have to pay £19,000 of money which might be spent upon technical education, or perhaps upon an attempt to solve the housing problem from which London suffers. Large sums of money will have to be diverted from sanitary purposes in order not to benefit the country, but to give a dole to the clergy. Some reference was made a moment ago to the deputation which waited upon the President of the Board of Agriculture the other day, and there was one argument used which was a very strange one. The right hon. Gentleman tried to turn the tables upon the London gentlemen who waited upon him by saying:

"I am surprised that you should come here objecting to this large sum which London has to pay, because when the Equalisation of Rates Bill was before Parliament you thought it was right that St. George's-in-the-West ought to share the burdens of St. George's-in-the-East."

I contend that this is no analogy, for St. George's-in-the-West was called upon to pay, not because it was rich, but because it was united with St. George's-in-the-East by a common tie. That surely is no argument at all why the ratepayers of my own district should be called upon to pay the rates of clergymen, for instance, in Wiltshire, with which the right hon. Gentleman is connected. Passing from the

case of London, I desire to say a few words upon another aspect of the case. I strongly object to the proposal to pay half the rates out of the Local Taxation Account, for this reason, that this is an attempt to relieve the land of its hereditary burdens. If the Committee will allow me I should like to develop this point for one moment, and I will take a specific case in order to make the matter perfectly clear. Take the case of two farms, each of £500 annual value. One of these farms we will suppose is tithe free, and the other has £100 tithe rent-charge upon it. In the case of the tithe free farm the farmer will have to pay rates on the whole of the £500, but in the other case the farmer will be entitled to deduct from the gross rental of £500 the amount of his tithe rent charge in order to ascertain the rateable value upon which he will be rated. In the first instance the farmer will pay on the whole of his £500, whilst in the second case the farmer will have to pay not on £500 but on £400. In other words he will pay £15 or £20 less in rates than is paid by a neighbouring farmer who occupies the tithe free farm. It is clear that the landlord of the tithable farm will have in hand funds to pay not half the rates on the tithe rent-charge, but the whole of the rates on that charge. Here I submit that we have a portion of the produce of the land ear-marked to pay the rates on the tithe. Let us follow that argument for a moment. Under the present law that portion of the produce of the land is properly dealt with. The farmer, as I have said, pays it to the landlord, then the landlord pays it over along with the rent-charge proper to the parson, and the parson pays it into the hands of the rate collector. That is the way in which this ear-marked part of the produce is dealt with. But under this Bill the parson will keep the portion of the produce of the land, ear-marked as I have described, in his own pocket instead of paying it over to the rate collectors. In other words the hereditary burdens upon the land will not be discharged out of this particular portion of the produce of the land. Under this Bill our old system of preserving the hereditary burdens of the land will cease, for this money will not be paid out of the ear-marked portion of the produce of the land, and it seems to me that this burden should be paid out of the residue of the produce of the land. And who has the residue of the produce of the

land? Why, the person who has that residue is the landlord and the owner, and therefore I submit that if you are going to relieve the parson a corresponding burden ought to be laid upon the landowner, who, as I have shown, has in his hands the residue of the produce of the land. From an economical and a national point of view it does not matter much who pays the rates, provided they are paid out of the produce of the land. Whether the landowner pays them out of his share of the profits or the parson pays them out of his tithe may be regarded practically from a national point of view as a kind of family arrangement with which the nation at large has nothing whatever to do. Under this Bill the Government say the parson has not to pay, but upon a principle which is thoroughly recognised in this country the landlord ought to pay. I have called this a family arrangement, because for centuries the Church and the landlords have been closely allied, and there has always been the closest possible relationship between the manor house and the vicarage. The landlords have often preyed upon the Church, and an eminent writer has stated that:

“The Church has been disendowed to the extent of one-third of its endowments for the benefit of the clergy.”

At the same time the Church has stuck to the landlord, and must make the best of its bargain. There is an additional reason why this relief should come out of the pocket of the landlords. The clerical witnesses before the Commission nearly all complained very strongly of the under-assessment of land as compared with tithe rent-charge. It is scarcely too much to say that it is mainly that under-assessment of land which has led to the present outbreak. If that is really the basis of the claim which is now made, the cost of this relief may fairly be laid upon the landowner. Further, the squire almost invariably belongs to the Church of England. If this burden were laid upon him he still would not be called upon to contribute to the support of his Church anything like as much as his Nonconformist neighbour in an equal position, with equal wealth, contributes towards the maintenance of his church. For these reasons, while I most strongly support the Amendment, I think the true source to which we ought to look for the

money to meet the cost of this relief is the landlord.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby) : Everybody will agree that this Amendment has been brought before the Committee clearly and concisely, and with a degree of moderation and fairness which must have impressed all. It is obvious that this is an important Amendment, requiring consideration and discussion, and it is not to be wondered at that those who represent London and other big towns should have found themselves compelled to put the case as looked at from the point of view of those areas. I cannot do better than begin by referring to the position in which we found ourselves when we came to the consideration of this particular question. It has been suggested that a change should be made in the Bill in order to cast the increased burden upon the tithes themselves. I will come to that presently. First of all, dealing with the general question, admitting, as the hon. Member for Hoxton did, the justice of the case—

MR. STUART : The House has decided that.

MR. LONG : Yes, precisely. Taking it, for the sake of argument, as settled that it is proper and right that this change should be made, we realise, as everybody must realise, when we come to this question of the reform of local taxation, that you obviously cannot lighten the burden of taxation upon one particular class of property without either filling up the gap which you create by bringing in revenue from some other source, or casting an increased burden upon the other rateable property within that area. We felt it would be unreasonable to come and ask Parliament to cast upon the ratepayers in other localities this increased burden. I am surprised that this suggestion has apparently received so much support on the other side of the House, because if there has been one line of opposition to this Bill insisted upon more vigorously than another it has been the increased burden that you are going to throw upon the local ratepayer. Yet under this suggestion that the burden should not be met out of the Local Taxation Account, but by some other local

ratepayers, the burden upon the local ratepayers would obviously be enormously increased. If, therefore, it is unfair to cast a particular burden upon the local ratepayers, it would be still more unfair and harsh to cast upon them a much heavier burden. Doubtless some hon. Gentlemen will say that that will tend to make the measure unpopular, and as they have not been able to defeat the Bill in Parliament they will hope to defeat it outside Parliament by casting this extra burden upon the ratepayer who has to bear it.

MR. STUART : I would rather have the Bill as it is.

MR. LONG : The hon. Gentlemen who put the case for London and the other large towns have condemned us for going to the Local Taxation Account to fill this gap, and they have suggested that we should leave that fund alone, and that we have no right to cite as a precedent the action of our predecessors when they descended upon the fund for the purpose of providing money for the administration of certain Acts of Parliament. I think the parallel is a much more fair one than hon. Gentlemen opposite are prepared to admit. That Government found it necessary to transfer from local authorities to the Imperial Parliament the administration of certain Acts of Parliament. The entire charge was cast upon the taxpayers, and the Government urged that they were justified in so doing, because it was for the good of the general community. But previously to that action these local authorities had possessed powers to deal with the matters ; they had considered whether it was advisable to exercise those powers, and some had deliberately refused, holding that the game was not worth the candle, and that it was not justifiable to call upon the ratepayers to pay for work which they thought was unnecessary. The result of the action of the then Government was to throw upon the ratepayers not only an obligation to pay for the administration of the Acts in their own neighbourhood, but to make them partners with the rest of the country for the administration of the Acts elsewhere. The contention now is that we ought to throw this increased cost upon the counties in which these cases occur. I am bound to say that that is a

view I am unable to share. We are told that this is not a national question, but that the local ratepayers have benefited by the increased burden which the clerical owners of tithe rent-charge have borne, and, therefore, they ought now to be called upon to bear the cost of the relief. But we have to consider something else. If this change is to be made, and if thereby this taxation is taken off the shoulders of those who now bear it and put elsewhere, is it not our duty to see that to the best of our ability the burden is spread over the widest possible area, and in such a way as to create the minimum of inconvenience and disturbance, and impose the minimum burden upon the individual? It was from that point of view that we approached the consideration and decision of this question, and it is upon those grounds we commend our proposal to the House. I have here a very few figures showing the effect of the two different proposals upon different local authorities. The comparison made by the hon. Member for Hoxton is a strong one from his point of view, and a perfectly fair one. He gave a great many instances where large contributions were to be made by Essex, Norfolk, and certain other counties, and where the receipts under the head of diminished rates from tithe rent-charge would be very much less than they would have to pay.

MR. STUART : In those counties it would be very much greater.

MR. LONG : It would be much greater out of the Local Taxation Account than the amount of rates to be paid.

MR. STUART : And there are counties in which the contrary is the case, other than London.

MR. LONG : Undoubtedly under this system you will have inequalities, and I do not believe it would have been possible to have discovered a system under which you filled up this vacuum without producing inequalities far greater than those in the proposal we make.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No.

MR. LONG : Hon. Gentlemen say "No." Putting aside the amount that will be repaid from this present comparison, I find that under one proposal of distri-

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bution—that is, throwing it on the Local Taxation Account—the incidence in London is between $\frac{1}{2}d.$ and $\frac{1}{4}d.$ That varies over different counties from $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ in Somerset up to, at the outside, $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ or $1\frac{3}{4}d.$ The variations are very slight.

MR. STUART : I admitted entirely that the system, as proposed in the Bill, made a fairly uniform contribution upon the rateable value. I admit that, but I say it is a wrong principle.

MR. LONG : We are at direct issue upon that point. The hon. Gentleman's argument is, that those in the county in which the relief is given should bear the cost of the burden. My answer is that if that plan were adopted you would very enormously vary the contribution in the different localities, and you would impose upon the local ratepayers a very much heavier burden, and that the Government think would be unjust. Moreover, that would not secure the object we have set ourselves to secure—viz., that the distribution of this money should be so effected that it should be spread over the widest possible area, and inflict the minimum burden upon the individual. If these counties were left to themselves to decide whether this new system should be adopted, I could understand the argument. But Parliament is asked to make up the deficit by an unfair treatment of these persons. The Government believe that the best method of treating this matter is to go to the Local Taxation Account, and they believe they can show that it is the best method, and one which will cause the least inconvenience. I quite admit that under this Bill there will be inequalities. I never denied that, but I do not believe it would be possible to discover a system under which the inequalities would be less. The case of London is, no doubt, very severe, and I have no doubt that if hon. Gentlemen opposite exercise sufficient industry they will find that hardships of the same kind exist in different parts of the country. But the question to be considered is how far the proposal of the Bill can be regarded as a real hardship on London. I should like to associate myself with what has been said by hon. Members for London as to the necessity for giving every possible aid to the local authorities of London in developing London, and especially in attending to the

needs and improving the conditions of the working classes; and if the proposal of the Bill would throw any serious obstruction in the way of that work I should hesitate before I identified myself with it. It must be remembered that increased expenditure in London does not necessarily mean that money is taken out of the pockets of the London ratepayers. Take the increase of payments due to London out of the Local Taxation Account, and compare 1887-1888 with 1891, and you find it is about £88,000. The increased payments by the County Council include, for instance, £64,000 paid under a statutory obligation to the subordinate local authorities. That money necessarily finds its way into the pockets of the local ratepayers. In other words, if the rate of the County Council is higher in consequence of these payments, they also involve the lowering of the rate of the subordinate local authority. It is also said that the proposal of the Bill means an increase in the burdens of working-men. The rates of houses rated at £20 in London and other large towns are paid under the composition system, and therefore they are not directly paid, at all events, by the occupants of the houses. In the case of a house rated at £20 per annum the increase brought about by the operation of the Bill would be only 2½d. a year, and is it not preposterous to suggest that all the customs and agreements under which working men hold houses would be upset for the sake of 2½d. a year? It may be that better methods might have been suggested, but I doubt the recommendations which come from hon. Gentlemen, who would regard the Bill with animosity no matter what scheme the Government proposed for dealing with the matter. I believe it would have met with the same opposition, only varied in its form, by hon. Gentlemen opposite. If the Government had suggested that this burden should fall directly upon the counties, with what fervour it would have been opposed by the hon. Members opposite who represented county constituencies! Why, everything they have said against the Bill so far is rosewater compared to what they would have said had the Government made any such proposal. I have never contended that the system proposed is a complete system, or that it is without flaws. I am not so foolish as to pretend anything of the kind. But I assert that the Govern-

ment, in adopting the method of resorting to the Local Taxation Account for the money, secure in the first instance that the burden is spread over a very wide area, and, as some inequalities are inevitable under any system, we secure in the second place that in the incidence of the burden there is inequality of the slightest possible description. Having come to the conclusion that we would be acting rightly in effecting this reform, I believe the method the Government has adopted for finding the money to meet the deficiency is, on the whole, the fairest and wisest, and I hope it is one that the Committee will adhere to.

SIR WILLIAM HARROD (Monmouthshire, W.): The right hon. Gentleman has allowed us, in a very frank and candid way, to have a little insight into the minds of the Government. Having made up their minds to make this grant to the clergy, they cast about to see what other class should be compelled to pay it. Anyone who has anything to do with financial administration knows that that is a difficult problem. The right hon. Gentleman also indicated the conclusion at which they arrived. They thought they had discovered a method of doing it which, if it was not for the malignity of gentlemen who sit on these benches, would never have been found out. But, unfortunately for the right hon. Gentleman, even if we had held our tongues, if we had been compelled to hold our tongues, the stones on his own side rise up, and his innocent scheme for endowing the clergy and charging the public taxpayer has been discovered in the course of two nights' debate. Let us see how he proposes to justify it. First of all, he said, "I have spread it widely." Yes, but when you spread a charge widely it does not justify it to the people who have to pay. It is the most extraordinary financial proposition I have ever heard of. I do not know whether intentionally or accidentally he fixed the figure at 2½d. I do not wish any courtesy to the right hon. Gentleman, but I should say the value of that argument is very accurately represented by the figure he selected. He has said that the Government are dealing with this question as a rating question: that they are redressing inequality of rating. Well, you would suppose that when you are redressing inequality of rating you would deal with

it upon sound rating principles, and sound rating principles are always connected with local taxation and not with general taxation. This "spreading" argument might be justified if it was for a national object, but at any time, and particularly at this moment, it would be inconvenient to put forward the endowment of the clergy as a national object, and so the Government have not propounded that idea; on the contrary, they say they are redressing a rating grievance. What the Government say is, "While we are going to relieve the people who ought not to pay so much, we are not going to put the burden upon the people who consequently pay too little. That would be dreadfully unpopular. Therefore let us put it on everybody and make everybody pay."

I think it will be discovered that that is not the universal opinion. Everybody does not agree with that view of the subject, and I have never heard the word "spreading" applied to finance without knowing that there was something extremely unsound at the bottom of the proposition. The right hon. Gentleman seems to imagine that he had put us in a great dilemma when he talked about the incidence of rating, and said that we had always contended in the case of agricultural rating that the rate falls upon the landlord. So it does. Therefore, says the right hon. Gentleman, you must make the same admission with respect to rating in towns. If he would take the pains to read a very instructive and scientific treatise upon rating by the First Lord of the Admiralty I think he would find—it is many years since I read it—that an exact distinction is drawn between the incidence of rating in the two cases, that in the case of agricultural rating the incidence is upon the landlord, whereas in the case of rating in towns the incidence is upon the occupier. That is a really conclusive answer to the dilemma which was so loudly cheered by hon. Gentlemen opposite, and it is a point which seems to have escaped the recollection of the right hon. Gentleman. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said we could not put the burden upon taxation generally, because it would be very unfair to Scotland and Ireland if we did so. That is a very ingenious argument to apply to the financial scheme of this Bill. But do you suppose that that argument will conceal from Scotland and Ireland that they are to contribute towards the relief given to

the clergy in England? The money taken out of the Local Taxation account for this purpose has to come out of the pockets of the general taxpayers quite as much in Scotland and Ireland as in England, and the representation that this is not a tax on Scotland and Ireland is financially untrue. It is a charge upon Scotland and Ireland exactly as it is a charge upon England. Therefore it is a trumpery device for putting a charge upon the general taxpayers of this country for the endowment of a particular denomination in England. I say it is an endowment of a particular denomination because your pretence that it is a rate-paying reform cannot be defended for a moment. If it is a rate-paying reform it applies to all tithe-owners.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester E.): Question.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: Does that mean the closure?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Question, question.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: I will proceed to argue the question if you like. I say this is to be defended, if it is defended at all, upon a rate-paying principle. Now, a rate-paying principle must apply to all sorts of property equally, and therefore if you do not apply it to all sorts of property equally you must have some particular reasons for not adopting that course. I suppose there must be something that the right hon. Gentleman the leader of the House finds it difficult to answer, and therefore he is particularly averse from having this matter brought under the consideration of the country. Well, you may have it brought under the consideration of the House or you may not, as you choose. You will not prevent, by cries of "Question," this matter from being brought before the consideration of the country, and you may depend upon it the country will cry "Question," and that they will know that the question is whether you are throwing the burden of this endowment upon the right people or upon the wrong people. Of course we are obliged at this stage of the discussion to admit that you have determined to make these grants. I was very much surprised, I must say, at that part of the

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speech of the hon. Member for West Ham when he said that we had not attempted to deny the justice of the claim. Of course we cannot do it now. We are arguing as far as we are permitted to do in the few hours that have been allowed to us in this Committee —

MR. ERNEST GRAY: There was no closure on the Second Reading.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: I am endeavouring to point out what our view is. We say there has been no injustice, and that the clergyman only paid what he knew beforehand he would have to pay. The hon. Member compared the case of the clergyman to that of a civil servant, but no rating question arises on the salary of a civil servant. The proposal of the Bill has been put upon the ground of it being a rating question, and the question of the rate, of course, is the question at issue, and the method in which we ought to meet the deficiency caused is a rating question. That is really what we have to consider. The argument used by the hon. Member was that we had to deal with the question of meeting the deficiency by the ratepayers of the locality as a rating question. I entirely agree with him. Do not let it be said that it is we who desire to increase the rates of the existing ratepayer. We deny the justice of the claim altogether, and we refuse to be trapped into any such dilemma as that. Our case is this—that there is not and never has been any injustice in this rate, that it has been always founded upon sound principles of rating, and that there is no more reason for throwing the burden upon the other ratepayers than there is for spreading it over the whole of the taxpayers of the United Kingdom. But take your position. You choose to found yourselves upon the injustice of the existing rating system, of which you have given no evidence whatever, and the method you have adopted is one which we say is unjust. I agree with the right hon. Gentleman that the injustice of a rate or tax is not to be measured by the amount, and therefore I say that all these twopenny-halfpenny conclusions are really beside the question altogether. The right hon. Gentleman said, "Oh! London, after all, will only pay £19,000. Well, what is that to London?" Very true. My hon. friend behind me was good enough

to derive an illustration from the county. I have the honour to represent, which will enjoy a species of equilibrium under the Bill. That is not an equilibrium which will be appreciated by my constituents. If he supposes that the ratepayers of Monmouthshire will be satisfied with an equilibrium which consists in their paying a certain number of hundreds of pounds in order to endow the clergymen of the Established Church in that county, he is very much mistaken in the opinion of that population, and if he knew as much of Wales as I do he would find that that is a very general sentiment. We are told by the right hon. Gentleman that if he had been going to reform the general system of local taxation—of local rating—he would never have adopted the proposals in this Bill. Yes; but what has my hon. friend the Member for Hoxton, who is a member of the Commission which is to consider this question, told you? He has told you that what you have done in the Agricultural Rates Act has raised an almost insuperable obstacle to anything like a wise and general and just reform of the system of local taxation, and that you were adding in this Bill another obstacle, although you are talking of it as a mere temporary measure. Right hon. Gentlemen opposite spoke of the Agricultural Rates Act as a mere temporary measure, but they do not intend it to be merely temporary. As long as they have the power they will take care to keep it, and the gentlemen who represent the clergy, who are getting this grant upon what I must call a vicious system of local rating, do not intend it to be a temporary measure. My hon. friend the Member for Hoxton says the Commission has found it impossible to deal with them on the basis of temporary measures. What, then, are you doing? You are absolutely destroying all hopes from that Commission of any outcome of a general reform of local taxation which shall do justice to the urban population of this country. The Prime Minister said the other day that there are a great many Commissions which will never have any result at all. He did not tell us which Commission he meant, but I venture to say that the Commission which is intended to give the same benefits to the towns which you have given to these two favoured classes of the community is one of those Commissions which I do not

think the Prime Minister intends to give any effect to. It seems to me that what you are doing by what is called piecemeal legislation is to violate the whole principles on which rating finance ought to rest. Rating finance is not, and ought not ever to be, piecemeal ; it ought to represent the whole of the community to which it is charged ; and to pick out two classes, begin with them, and say, "Oh ! we will consider the interests of the other classes afterwards," is a thoroughly vicious system of finance. We know what is going to happen. You have got money under the Agricultural Rates Act, and you have done nothing since. You are going to get this money for the Church, and what will then happen ? Nothing at all. The Commission, practically speaking, will be paralysed by the steps you have taken in these two matters. The towns will never get the justice from the Commission which they ought to have received had the question been tackled properly. Anything more dangerous for the interests of this country than to introduce a number of unsound principles in dealing with local taxation and rating cannot be conceived. Your general public expenditure is growing at a very dangerous rate. And, what is equally dangerous, perhaps more dangerous—you are introducing false principles in a Rating Bill.

COMMANDER BETHELL (York E.R., Holderness) : Question.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT : It is the question. I am waiting for the Chairman to call me to order.

COMMANDER BETHELL : I have a right to call "Question."

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT : Well, let the hon. and gallant Member continue to call "Question." I may remind the hon. Member also that he has got the right to move the closure, and I would suggest to him that that course is perhaps more courteous and more conclusive. It will save me trouble, because I shall no longer be interrupted. This is a financial Amendment dealing with the whole financial proposals of the Bill, and when I call attention to the danger of introducing false principles into the system of rating in the country, the hon. and gallant Member calls "Question." Pro-

bably his feeling is that it is rather dangerous.

COMMANDER BETHELL : I rise to a point of order. Is the right hon. Gentleman addressing himself to the Amendment ?

*THE CHAIRMAN : The last remarks of the right hon. Gentlemen were rather called forth by the interruption of the hon. and gallant Member.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT : There is no Member of this House for whom I have more respect than I have for the hon. and gallant Member, but on a financial Amendment financial remarks are in order. I say we ought to be more careful in dealing with the finance of local rating than even with the general finances of the country, and in my opinion these proposals are extremely injurious to the principles of local finance and of local rating. I need not labour the point, because it has been agreed to very fairly and frankly by the right hon. Gentleman. He also said that the proper method of dealing with this matter is by way of assessment, and I entirely agree. One of the greatest complaints against the financial operations of the Bill is that it does not proceed by assessment. I do not quite appreciate the right hon. Gentleman's distinction between the principle of deduction and the principle of assessment. Assessment depends very much on deduction. You assess one class of property more and another less according as there are greater or fewer deductions to be made. Therefore they are the same thing, and I say the Report of the Commission pointed directly to assessment and deduction. I agree with hon. Members who have spoken on both sides that the financial principle of this Bill is an unsound principle, and I give my hearty support to the Amendment of the hon. Member for Bow and Bromley, which he moved in such an able and lucid manner.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I am afraid the right hon. Gentleman took exception to a modest interruption I made during his speech, and which I assure him was not intended in any spirit of discourtesy. But the masterpiece he delivered on the Second Reading of this Bill ought not, I think, to be too often touched up. It

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was excellent in its original form, and it was an enjoyment to listen to it for the first time, but by constant repetition even the most excellent things lose some of their savour. The right hon. Gentleman has advanced outside the arguments brought forward very ably by my two hon. friends the astounding proposition that the fund on which we are drawing is a fund belonging not to the English rate-payers, but to the general taxpayers of the country. That is really a most extravagant proposition. If we do not pass this Bill in its present form, will the taxpayers of Ireland or Scotland have a penny more in their pocket than they have now? It is perfectly true that the London ratepayer will lose one-eighth of a penny in the £ if the Bill is passed in its present form. But, if the Amendment were carried and the Bill were not passed in its present form, while the London ratepayer would gain one-eighth of a penny in the £, the Irish and Scotch ratepayer and taxpayer would be neither better nor worse off than now. That is really indisputable, and therefore it is an extravagant paradox to say that this Bill throws any burden on Scotland or Ireland.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: I said that either the money is wanted or it is not. If you make this charge it is necessary to raise the money from the general taxpayer.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We do not know much of the future programme of the Party opposite, but if part of that programme is a Bill interfering with the contribution of the general taxpayer to the Local Taxation Account there is some point in what the right hon. Gentleman says. But we on this side have no such intention, and we do not think the right hon. Gentleman has. Anything drawn from the Local Taxation Account falls on the English ratepayer, and upon him alone. The real question is not the extravagant proposition of the right hon. Gentleman, but the more modest proposition of the mover of the Amendment. That proposition can be put in the compass of a sentence: Is it, or is it not, in conformity with sound principle that the ratepayers throughout the country should be asked to contribute to the removal of rating injustices, even if, according to strict arithmetic, some will pay more in carrying out the object than they would

gain by the object being carried out? That is the question in a nutshell. I have no hesitation in answering that in the affirmative. Hon. Gentlemen opposite talk as if the existing system of rating in this country were so nicely adjusted to the equities of the case that it should not be interfered with. I say that the existing system is not only unjust in a manner which may be remedied by some general scheme, but that from the very nature of the case you cannot devise a system by which every member of the community shall pay precisely according to his means towards general objects in which the community are interested. The present system makes no pretence to carry that out with arithmetical accuracy. The trifling inequity introduced by the Government is practically insignificant measured by the inequities under which we all sit down. Take, for example, the contribution of personality to rating objects. I believe no one who has studied the history of rating or the equities of rating, but does not think that personality ought to contribute more largely. Personality does contribute now under an exchequer contribution, and so far as that contribution goes something is done towards meeting the equities of the case. But consider the anomaly of that contribution. Under the Act of Elizabeth the dwellers in each area were to contribute towards local objects in that area. That is not done by the Exchequer contribution of personality. We all admit that is anomalous, but we say it is better that personality should contribute in an inequitable, slip-shod fashion than that it should escape altogether. No more perfect system has ever yet been suggested. Take the existing system of rating in Lancashire. My hon. friend who moved the Amendment is very keenly alive to the anomaly that Lancashire should have to pay £19,000 and only receive £1,000 or £900. But the whole system of equalisation of rates is the roughest approximation to justice. It is difficult to say why St. George's-in-the-West should contribute the exact amount it does to local purposes in St. George's-in-the-East, and if it contributes to St. George's-in-the-East why not to West Ham? You cannot lay down a rule which justifies an anomaly like that. All we can say is that it is impossible to adjust the exact burden in these rating questions so that no one pays more than he is justified towards general purposes. I believe that

London at this moment gets in contributions for her parks alone from the national Exchequer twice as much and more than twice as much as the £19,000, the amount of her contributions under this Bill. I make no complaint of that. I believe the right hon. Gentleman opposite does not complain of it, because he was Chancellor of the Exchequer during many of the years in which it has been carried out. The justification is, I suppose, that persons in Northumberland and Durham can enjoy Hyde Park just as much as people living within a few yards of it. I do not quarrel with that, but it is very difficult to define in strict argument. Take again the case of the payment of rates on Government buildings. London gets an immense amount of general taxation in that way. It may be said that that is national, and that therefore the nation ought to pay; but you cannot adjust these things with absolute arithmetical accuracy. The truth is, we are bound to approach these questions, not merely as arithmeticians, but as statesmen who have got to deal with practical problems. My right hon. friend near me was absolutely accurate in saying that in dealing with this question of rating the Government is amply justified in drawing upon this fund, and in using it in no sense of hardship, and in no sense whatever of personal inconvenience. It is the only way to deal with rating questions. In the future I believe we shall have other rating problems, and when the Government of the day draws on this fund it may involve a contribution favourable to London and against the rural districts. I will not object to that, notwithstanding some inequity which is inevitable. But if you draw only the precise amount which the multiplication table says you should, you will never be able to solve these great practical problems which at present confront us. I frankly admit that if this were not a national question, or a question affecting the whole of England, we ought not to draw upon a fund which the whole of England enjoys in order to solve it. But I assert that rating questions are emphatically national. The right hon. gentleman very unfairly stated that this money is to be taken from London to be given to the clergy. It is not to be taken from London to be given to the clergy, but to be given to a certain class of rural ratepayers. May I respectfully remind

the Committee what the Amendment before us is? It is to leave out all the machinery for paying the money, while it does remove an injustice from the clergy, so that if the first part stands and the second is abolished, as proposed by the Amendment, the result will be that an additional burden will be put on rural ratepayers, and to a less degree on London ratepayers. The Government think that in order to carry out a rating reform of this kind it is perfectly fair to come on this fund. The right hon. Gentleman has not suggested that we are doing anything worse than was done by himself in the case of swine fever. The right hon. Gentleman was justified in what he did in that matter. The House unanimously thought that though it could not be maintained that every part of the country was equally interested in swine fever, it was nevertheless fair that the whole of the country should pay for swine fever. Although the whole of the country is not equally interested in the removal of this rating grievance, the whole country is interested in it as it is a matter of general justice, and it is fair that a general fund should be called upon. Under the circumstances I contend that the course the Government have pursued is one in conformity with the general interest, and in conformity, therefore, with sound policy, and I do not believe it will be possible in the future to effect any great readjustment of local taxation without again having recourse to the growing produce of this great contribution to rating. I hope, if the Committee divides on this question, it will emphatically support the Government. It is natural and legitimate that hon. Gentlemen opposite who dislike the whole Bill should vote for an Amendment which would destroy the Bill, whether they think my argument good or bad; but I appeal to those on my own side who, as practical statesmen, have said they do not object to the Bill in its main principles, who have told us they regard the present rating of the clergy as grossly unjust, to emphatically support the Government in the course they now propose, inasmuch as the grievance, the reality of which they admit, can be remedied by the method suggested and by no other method. That is the plain alternative, and I am convinced my hon. friends will see that we are justified in the course we are pursuing, and that they will give us their support.

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITHS (Anglesey): The Leader of the House made a very pathetic appeal to those who sat behind him. I only wish that he had been able to make a wider appeal. The First Lord was very merry over the Second Reading speech of the right hon. Member for West Monmouth; but I think his references to the Second Reading have become quite as numerous as those of the right hon. Member for West Monmouth. The First Lord of the Treasury, in the course of his speech, said from time to time that there were already a great many anomalies in the rating system of the country. On that we are all agreed; but I do not see that that is any reason for instituting another. The number of anomalies already existing is rather a reason for putting an end to them all, than for introducing a new one altogether. The right hon. Gentleman said the money was not taken from London and given to the clergy. I think that is an astounding statement. But he said it was given to the rural ratepayers. I have always felt that there was a good deal of difficulty to know where the money was to come from, but there is an equal difficulty in knowing who is going to get it. When the right hon. Gentleman says the money is not going to the clergy, but to the rural ratepayers, surely that is only a trifling with words. The money is going just where the Government intends it to go, namely, to the clerical incumbent. We admit on this side of the House the frankness and candour of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman this afternoon. He admits that in many cases inequalities will be created by the Bill. He also admits it will do very little to fill the vacuum which he thinks ought to be filled in a particular manner in respect to the amount. The point we have to consider is very simple, namely, to decide where the money is to come from. The Committee has decided that half of these rates need not be paid by those who have hitherto paid them. The only question raised by the Amendment, especially in the form the Chairman has put it, is the best way of providing the money. In order to decide that, we have to consider various funds on which we might draw. I think the natural way to provide the money is to get it from those people who utilise the services of the clergy, namely, their congregations. They ought to have the first honour and privi-

lege of making up the deficit. If they will not do it I should call on the communicants of the parish, who ought to be only too glad of the opportunity of supporting their clergy in times of distress. If they will not do it, there is the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, a wealthy body, with an income of hundreds of thousands a year. They might be called upon to pay half the rates of the clergy. It appears that the Committee has decided that there are only two alternatives—to pay this money from either a local fund or a central fund. The Minister of Agriculture has practically told us that the point he has in view is to minimise the effects of the Bill. He wants the country to know as little as possible as to who pays this money. He does not want it to be a constant source of recollection to those who pay the money. That is the reason why he goes to the Local Taxation Account fund, for he says, a man who occupies a £20 house will only pay 2½d. per year, and who cares for 2½d. per year? I am sure that if the Report of the Royal Commission is read, especially the subsidiary Report of the hon. Member for Stroud, he will arrive at the conclusion that, if deductions have anything to do with this matter, it is the local ratepayers that ought to be paid. Whatever way you look at it, I submit that a central fund ought not to be drawn upon to pay the deficit, but that the community served by the clergyman should pay it. The mode provided for in the Bill is not a right or just mode, and I shall be happy to support the Amendment.

*MR. MENDL (Plymouth): The Amendment which has been moved by the hon. Member for Bow and Bromley is one which goes to the root of this question so far as hon. Members representing borough constituencies are concerned, and it is in that capacity that I support it very warmly. The First Lord of the Treasury attempted to justify the opposition of the Government to this Amendment, as far as I understood him, upon the ground that personality does not contribute towards local rates, and that this was a rough-and-ready way of making personality do so. It is a very rough and, it may be, a very ready way, but it does not seem to me to have that effect in the smallest degree. All that the Government have done is to take a sum of money and shovel it over to a class of people whom they say have been suffering injustice

irrespective altogether of the condition of the recipients, for it is quite obvious that those who want the most will receive the least, and *vice versa*. So far as regards the source from which the Government are going to obtain the money, they are, under this Bill, going to make all the ratepayers pay. I suppose even the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture will no longer contend that nobody pays this money because it comes out of the Local Taxation Account. But the ratepayers who will feel the call most are the urban ratepayers, who are already more highly rated than any other class. That, I think, is the reason why every borough Member in this House ought to join in protesting against this policy. I very much regret that we have not heard protests from a larger number of borough Members from the other side of the House. I do not suggest that they should follow the example of my hon. friend the Member for Stockport, for it is not everybody who has the courage to speak out as my hon. friend did, but it would have been very useful indeed if some more borough Members, and especially London Members, had made their protests felt in regard to this matter. Because, after all, what is the whole principle of rating? Rating is a local charge for a local purpose. One hon. Member on the other side yesterday, or Monday, put the case extremely well. He said when you contend that a certain class of ratepayers have hitherto been overrated it naturally follows that a large number of ratepayers have been underrated; and therefore it is surely right and proper that those who have been paying too little should make up the deficiency which is caused by those who have been paying too much. I suppose it is not suggested that as between the urban ratepayer and the rural ratepayer the urban ratepayer pays too little and the rural ratepayer too much, for the opposite is the case. The proposal of the Government is, to my mind, one more instance, if instance were wanted, of the sacrifice of the towns to the country, and of the urban ratepayer to the rural ratepayer. It is an extension of the vicious principle which was carried out in the Agricultural Rating Act, and as a borough Member I heartily support the Amendment.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I should like to say a word on this Amendment, not from the point of view

Mr. Mendl.

of a borough Member, but from the point of view of a county Member. I should like to remind the Committee that there are several counties in England where the tithe was largely got rid of under various Enclosure Acts. The county that I have the honour to represent has got rid of five-sixths of the tithe under such Acts, and therefore the sum to be given under the provisions of this Bill will be comparatively trivial. It is, however, obvious that the ratepayers of Northamptonshire will be mulcted somewhat in the same way as the ratepayers represented by the hon. Member for Bow and Bromley and the hon. Member for Plymouth, in order to pay for the relief of the rates in other districts. It seems to me that this Amendment, as well as the proposal contained in the Bill, is open to very serious objections. The hon. Member proposes to shift the burden from the general body of ratepayers to the local ratepayers. That, of course, may be a very great gain to certain districts, but in other districts it would certainly mean a considerable loss. I myself therefore feel some hesitation in supporting this Amendment, though I shall vote for it as being a less grievous form of injustice than the proposal in the Bill. The proposal now before us raises the whole question of taxation. It seems to me that we have had absolutely no case made out, either from the distress point of view or from the rating point of view, of the claim of the clergyman. We have a proposal put before us which is absolutely unique in ignoring the elementary facts which underlie the whole position of the clergy and the vast wealth of the Church. I have not heard in the course of these Debates one single reference to the fact that the whole of the vast ecclesiastical revenues were exempted from the estate and succession duties. There is, therefore, already a vast concession to the clerical ratepayers indirectly through the enormous relief from Imperial taxation. It is consequently obvious that, although you go either to the general taxpayer or to the general ratepayer in order to obtain relief for any of the alleged hardships to the incumbents who pay rates on their tithes, you should rather ask the Church to deal with this question.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! I would point out to the hon. Member that this question does not arise on the

Amendment. Even if the Amendment were carried, the question cannot be considered by the Committee. Mr. Speaker has already ruled that that is altogether outside the Bill.

*MR. CHANNING: I am perfectly aware that Mr. Speaker has made that ruling, and I was only referring to the matter as an illustration of my contention that the claim to this relief was not justified, because of the vast revenues which the Church possesses and which can be drawn upon for this relief.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That cannot be raised on this Amendment.

*MR. CHANNING: I bow most respectfully to your ruling, Mr. Lowther, but as one who has listened to most of this Debate, I venture to say that it has been largely composed of Second Reading considerations. The Amendment which we are asked to sanction, preferable as it is to the scheme of the Bill, will impose a very heavy fine upon those whom we represent, whether we represent large towns or rural districts, and I wish to enter my most emphatic protest against the whole policy of the Bill.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I have again and again appealed to hon. Gentlemen opposite to consider this matter purely and solely on the ground of justice. I now proceed to make the same appeal to Her Majesty's Government and their supporters on this side, for it is upon the ground of justice that this Amendment must be considered. I regret very much to hear the First Lord of the Treasury say that if this Amendment were passed it would spoil the Bill. That is a misapprehension. The essence of the Bill is contained in the words that have been already adopted, and if there were no other words in the Bill than those that are already in it the injustice, so far as the clergy are concerned, would have been redressed. The question that now arises is simply and solely the question of who is to pay the money. Her Majesty's Government propose, in effect, that the ratepayers at large should pay; in other words that they should cease to have this sum of £87,000 handed over to them for the alleviation of the rates. Now, whence is that money derived? It is derived from the duties levied on the personal property of deceased persons under

the Finance Act of 1894. Her Majesty's Government propose, in other words, to alleviate the admitted wrong—admitted so far as we on this side of the House are concerned—on the clergy by repaying them an amount which is supposed to be taken out of the sum provided by personal property at death. What has that to do with the alleviation of rating? It seems to me that this at any rate is not the right fund to take it from. Moreover, I have another objection to taking it from this particular fund. It is the creation of an interception, which is in itself a financial offence, and which will be aggravated by the Bill. What is the claim made on behalf of the clergy? The claim is as distinct as possible. It has never varied, it has never been added to or diminished. It is, that certain deductions are not made in consideration of the fact that the clergy render services to entitle them to their emoluments. It is a perfectly good and just claim. And what is the remedy proposed? The remedy is that a deduction should be made. That the Bill does in a rough and ready way, which I shall come to in a moment. Well, the remedy of deduction is, I venture to say, the right remedy, and not only the right remedy but the only remedy which can be defended on the ground of justice, which I advance. There is no other suggested by the Commission. The Commission suggested generally that some relief should be given. The only specific suggestion made was by the three members of the Commission who really understood the subject, and their remedy was the remedy of deduction. Then it is said, "Yes, but if you deduct it the amount will have to be made up by the other ratepayers." Certainly; and why not? Is that unjust? What is the allegation? The allegation is that for sixty years the clergyman has, in consequence of the absence of this necessary and just deduction, been paying more than his proper share of the rating and consequently the other ratepayers less. Take the remedy suggested by the three learned Members of the Commission, and what is the result? That for the first time since 1836 the other ratepayers would begin to pay their just share. A grievance on the part of the ratepayers? For sixty years they have been paying less than they ought to pay, and we are letting them off all those years. All we ask is that in future they shall pay their just share of the whole of the rating as it falls on the area in which

they live. It is impossible to find any grievance upon the ratepayer in making him now, for the first time, pay his proper share of the rate. Has any Member of this House, has any Member of Her Majesty's Government, pretended that it is unjust that this proper charge should fall upon the ratepayers? Not one. It is time that the ratepayer now assumed his fair share of the rate, which up to this time he has not borne, and which the clergyman has borne instead. Not an argument has been addressed to the House to show that it would be unjust to place upon the ratepayer his proper share of the burden. There is no doubt that such a proposal will be unpopular with the ratepayers; but the proposal of the Government will be still more unpopular with a larger body of the taxpayers, and especially the taxpayers in towns. But I altogether reject the arguments that may be drawn from popularity. My belief is that Her Majesty's Government desire to do an act of justice in a just manner. The whole question is, on whose shoulders shall the extra burden be placed? I think we on this side of the House are well disposed towards the Bill, but surely Her Majesty's Government are not going to impose on us the iron rule of accepting the particular method put forward by the Government, without allowing us to suggest an alteration of any kind. Surely they are not going to deprive us of the right of private judgment, or ask us to vote at the crack of the party whip. The Government speak of this Bill as if it were something sacred, and as if perdition were pronounced on those who should "add one word to this prophecy or take one word from it." I feel constrained, in the interests of justice, to vote for the Amendment.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) : I have endeavoured, as far as I can, to get an insight into the views of justice which are accepted on the other side. The position of hon. Members opposite is this—they say that a just debt is due to the clergy at the present time, and it is our duty to pay that debt. I do not agree that any just debt is due to the clergy; but granting for the moment that the intention of the Government is to do justice, let me apply their own principles to this Amendment. If there is a just debt due there are two persons to be taken into account—there is the person to whom the debt is

Mr. Gibson Bowles.

due, and there is the person by whom it is paid. It is as fully a matter of justice that the right person should pay the debt as that the person whose money is due should receive it. There has not been a single argument put forward in the course of the discussion to show that the right person will pay the money due to the clergy under the Bill as it stands. The contention of the First Lord of the Treasury has been this, and nothing more—that our present system of local taxation is full of anomalies, and that this Bill may be likewise an anomaly, but it is only adding one more to the numerous anomalies which exist in our law. Now, what would be said if the First Lord of the Treasury were to give a violent blow to any hon. Gentleman in this House, and on being remonstrated with, the First Lord of the Treasury were to say "You object to my giving you a violent blow on the head, but there is not a Christian or a civilised country in the world in which murders are not of daily occurrence"? Well, that is nothing more or less than the argument put forward by the First Lord of the Treasury in support of the Bill. Can it be said that the Amendment of the hon. Member for Bow and Bromley is not more consistent with justice than the Bill as it now stands? It cannot be disputed that if this Bill is carried we shall be putting a charge on persons who ought not to be liable to pay that charge. If the clergy have been unfairly treated, and it is not desirable to leave them in that position, then they ought to be paid at the expense of those who have been wrongly enjoying this advantage for many years. I ask hon. Members opposite, representing large towns, if it is fair, bearing in mind the financial interests of their own constituencies, that they should, merely at the crack of the party whip, allow a wrong to be done to their constituents on behalf of the ratepayers of certain localities. This is a wrong done between one private individual and another, and unless some more cogent argument is forthcoming, if they vote against this Amendment, I am convinced that they will never be able to explain how it is that they are willing to relieve ratepayers of this burden who are now getting an advantage from the over assessment of the clergy.

*SIR J. STIRLING-MAXWELL (Glasgow, College) : Although I myself repre-

sent a Scotch constituency, and have no interest financially, either direct or indirect, in the subject under discussion, perhaps I may be allowed to speak with all the more freedom, and altogether without prejudice, on this subject. It has been very much thrown in the teeth of those defending this Amendment that the defence comes mainly from the Opposition, and I admit that while they are opposed to this Bill on principle, their views must be taken as an expression of academic opinion, not altogether free from a sinister motive. I rise to support the Amendment of my hon. friend, and I do so because it seems to me, as the Bill now stands, to create an obvious injustice, although it is one which does not affect the portion of the country which I represent. Nevertheless, I cannot, as a Member of this House, allow such an injustice to be perpetrated without making a protest against it. It seems to me that if we are to have odious legislation of this kind—and I think hon. Members on both sides of the House will all admit that legislation of this kind, which tends to alter the incidence of rates on various classes, is an odious kind of legislation—there are two principles which ought to guide us. The first one is that in removing one injustice we should take good care that we do not create another injustice. The second principle is that if we remove the weight of local taxation from the shoulders of one class, and place it upon the shoulders of another class, we ought to take care that the change is felt not only by those who are relieved, but also by those who will have to bear the burden. As regards the first of these principles, a case has been made out which has never been answered by any hon. Member defending the Bill, and which obviously cannot be answered. It has been shown that in the extreme case of London, the clergy will receive only £900 under this Bill, whilst London will be called upon to contribute £19,000. The right hon. Gentleman called this an anomaly, but I prefer, as it does not exist now, and we are making the change for the first time, to call it by a plainer name, and I call it an injustice. As regards the second point, namely, that if we remove taxation from the shoulders of one class we ought to take care that the change is felt by those who will have to bear the burden, I wish we could have some answer from someone who would be able to tell us why it is impossible for the clergymen in a

particular area, who are paying too much in rates, to be relieved at the expense of those in that particular locality who have been paying too little? I fear that the only answer which can be given is the one which was given with considerable frankness by the right hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill, and that is that it would be very impolitic to those who are proposing this measure to allow it to be worked out in this way. I do not propose to go further into the details of this Bill, but as regards that particular question as to where the incidence of the money is to fall, I should like to say that the subject is not one of great difficulty. I should like to remind the Committee that, although the main principle involved does enter into the region of very abstruse, difficult, and debateable questions, the particular point before the House at this moment is one of almost transparent simplicity. The House has now decided that the clergy are to be relieved of half the rates which they pay on their tithe; in other words, they are to be assessed on half the amount at which they are at present assessed. That being so, hon. Members who wish to support the Government proposal will have to ask themselves if it is right that people who have been hitherto escaping this burden should now be relieved of the obligation of making up the deficiency. For these reasons I must plainly say that so far as I am personally concerned, I shall not be able to support the Third Reading of this Bill unless the Government are able to give way on this point.

MR. ABEL THOMAS (Carmarthen, E.): The effect of this Amendment will be that the people of East Carmarthen will not get as much as they would do if this Bill was carried in its present form. Nevertheless, I am going to vote for the Amendment. Everyone knows that since the year 1836 the local area of taxation has varied to a certain extent, but wherever it has been altered in a particular district the clergymen's tithes have been rated to a certain amount. I am not going to accept the proposition which has been put before us by the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House. He says that the clergymen since 1836 have been unfairly rated, but my contention is if there is any injustice it has nothing whatever to do with anybody outside a particular area. It is a question of the rates in that particular area and nowhere else, and, when one remembers that the effect of the Amend-

ment will be simply this—that relief to the clergy in a particular area must be met by the people in that area itself, it does seem to me to be utterly impossible to conceive of any other reasonable way of meeting the difficulties under which the clergyman has suffered up to the present time. It is no answer for the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill to say that it will be a very difficult thing to make the area concerned pay the deficiency. I can understand that in Norfolk, where the farmer has to make up a loss of £7,000, the right hon. Gentleman at the next election may be met with a very disagreeable number of electors; and the same argument applies to places like Essex, where everyone knows that, at the present moment, there are many farms which are let where the farmer has positively only to pay the rates, and nothing more. I understand that if justice is going to be done by this Bill the farmer and the landowner will turn round against the Government and say "No, after this monstrous piece of injustice we won't vote for anybody who brings in Bills of this kind." That is the reason this injustice is being perpetrated, and I ask is it fair to the farming constituencies? Of course everyone knows perfectly well that the people who are to be relieved by this part of the Bill are those living in the rich agricultural counties. If they are poor agricultural counties with large industries and containing large manufacturing districts they will lose money by this proposal of the Government. If on the other hand they are rich agricultural districts, they will gain money by the Bill and will lose it by the Amendment, and it seems to me that this Bill—and the opposition to this Amendment—brings us back to the old argument, and that is, back up the landlord—it does not matter whether it is the landlord or the tenant farmer—the farmer and the clergyman against the rest of the taxpayers of the country. I cannot possibly imagine, when it is said on the other side of the House that this is simply an act of justice to make the rating equal, how any one can turn round and say that those who have gained by this inequality are not to bear the burden, but that the unfortunate labourer in the large towns shall be called upon to provide the deficiency. I was very much surprised to hear the hon. Member for the Kirk-

Mr. Abel Thomas.

dale Division opposing this Amendment, and I doubt very much whether his constituents will take that view of the matter. I cannot understand how it can be argued that towns which receive no benefit at all are to be called upon to pay the larger part of the amount which is necessary to meet the loss which will be suffered by certain areas by the reduction of these rates. This is an act of injustice, simply because the persons who ought to pay are not made to pay. My constituency agree with me that this is an iniquitous Bill, and they are satisfied with what I am doing, because they feel that if there is any injustice done they have been benefiting by it, and they ought to pay for it if this proposal becomes law at all. I do suggest to the Government that, after they have been preaching about justice throughout all the stages of this Bill, they might now do a small act of justice at the end without any fear of the consequences at the next election. With the Government it seems to be the General Election and nothing else. I venture to think that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, if he were not really afraid of that result, and if he paid attention to the speeches delivered on his own side of the House as well as those delivered on this side, would admit that this Amendment would meet the justice of the case.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I feel that the Government have some cause of complaint against the mover of this Amendment, for while I agree with every argument used in its favour, I do feel that he did not conclude the whole of the work which he took in hand. The Government has proposed to take certain money for the purpose of relieving the clergy, and now the Member for Bow proposes to cut that source off, but he does not provide any other machinery for supplying the money. Now, if he is inclined to accept a suggestion from so humble a person as myself, I would suggest that he should add to his Amendment words which provide that the money shall be found by voluntary contribution among the members of the Church in their various parishes. That is a very simple plan, and one which has been very effective among the Free Churches, and surely what the Free Churches can do the rich established Church of England

can do equally well. In the country districts the richest people are usually members of the Church, whilst in the case of the Dissenters, their congregations are mostly composed of the poorer class of the community, such as mechanics, small shopkeepers, and agricultural labourers. These poor people find all the money necessary for the maintenance of their minister, and the up-keep of the manse and the church, as well as the money for foreign missions. If the Dissenters can do this, surely the rich members of the Church can do likewise. It is a perfectly simple thing to insert at the end of the Amendment of the hon Member for Bow a provision that the money shall be found by voluntary contributions among the members of the Church. If the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill does not understand this system, and is not fully acquainted with the machinery for the collection of funds for Free Churches, my hon. friend the Member for Louth will give him a little instruction, for he is engaged in raising a million guineas by free contributions for the religious community with which he is connected, namely, the Wesleyans. During the month of January, this year, I attended meetings for this purpose in all parts of—

*THE CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. Member reserve that part of his speech to such time as there is an Amendment concerning that body. The present proposal is that the ratepayers should be called upon to meet the deficiency.

MR. BROADHURST: I was humbly endeavouring to direct the attention of the Government to the fact that this money might be provided by voluntary contributions, and, so far, it seems to me that I am assisting the Government out of a difficult position. They are now being forsaken by their own friends, and I observe that row after row of the supporters of the Government are coming "Stockport way" to this side of the House. I suggest that if the right hon. Gentleman will accept an Amendment providing that this money shall come from a voluntary source, then I think he will save many votes on his own side, and he will place many of us on this side of the House in considerable difficulties. Although I am not a member of the Church of England, I am a contributor to its funds. I am not a voluntary sub-

scriber, but I am compelled by law to subscribe, and in other respects I sometimes give a voluntary contribution—a small one, I admit—to go side by side with the compulsory contribution which I am compelled to make. I think many of the Church people themselves would much rather that they should makeup this deficiency by voluntary process than that Parliament should be called upon to rob the underpaid labourers of the country by general taxation. It appeared to me that this suggestion might have been of sufficient value to Her Majesty's Government in their present difficulty to have been accepted by them, otherwise I should not have occupied the five minutes which I have occupied on this important question.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I should like to say one or two words on this Amendment, first as a London Member, and secondly from the standpoint of the Church. This Amendment touches a very thorny question, and I think I must agree with my hon. friend who has moved this Amendment. The whole case for this Bill, as I understand it—and it is certainly the reason why I strongly support it—is that it is based upon the idea that the clergy pay too large a sum in local taxation. I have always taken that view. Indeed, I was not a very enthusiastic supporter of the Agricultural Rating Bill when it was before this House, because I felt that the clergy ought to have been included in it. I have always held that if there was one class of persons who were subjected to unjust rating it was the clergy of the Church of England. This Bill has been brought in from the standpoint that the clergy have been paying too much, and this measure is intended to set that injustice right. Therefore, I cannot see any logical reason against the Amendment of my hon. friend, because it is true that the clergy have been paying too much. As a matter of course, if the clergymen in any district have been paying too much, then it follows that the locality has been paying too little. If that is the case then the obvious cure for the injustice is to put it right by calling upon the locality to pay the difference out of its revenue. Personally I am not afraid of doing this, and I agree that—I will not say it is cowardly—it is rather a timid way of putting the injustice right by saying that you are taking this money from a fund

which comes from nobody will know exactly where. I do strongly urge the Government to give way on this matter, for, although my opinion may be a little biassed by the unfair way in which the Bill affects London, I think it is only fair to the Church itself that what is proposed in this Amendment should be done, and, although it may be unpopular, I think it is the right step to take. Therefore, I shall support this Amendment, for I believe that in the long run the Government will gain rather than lose by adopting this Amendment.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Mansfield, Nottinghamshire): Early in these Debates I expressed the opinion that the opposition to this Bill was about to be met by a conspiracy of silence; but if that idea were entertained it has evidently failed. I do not, however, think that free speech has improved the position of either this Bill or the Government any more than silence, for we have had some very frank criticisms on the part of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and to-day there appear on the Paper three notices by staunch supporters of the Government of an announcement which, if it were adopted, would, I have no doubt, be followed by an announcement that the measure would not be further proceeded with by the Government. The supporters of that Amendment evidently do not appreciate the clever device of the President of the Agricultural Board for finding the requisite money without the ratepayers feeling it. They are too straightforward for such a method, and prefer pursuing a strictly logical course. For what is the present state of the case? It is alleged that for sixty years past the other ratepayers have been saddling the clergy with a large amount which they ought to have paid themselves, and the Government propose that, to the extent of one half, the clergy shall be relieved. What is the necessary consequence? Is it that the ratepayers should look about for some other body on whom they may place the burden, instead of bearing it themselves? Obviously not; but then to make the ratepayers themselves find the required money would be to bring too close home to the ratepaying mind that they were being taxed for the benefit of the Established clergy. Reference has been made to other sources from which the needed funds might be legitimately obtained, and

among them is a resort to the free-will offerings of the congregations. I am, however, afraid that that is at present a counsel of perfection only; though it is what the Church will have to come to presently. Then there are actually available the funds in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; but as there is an Amendment containing that proposal, I am afraid I shall not be in order in dealing with it now. I only hope I may have the chance of doing so when that Amendment is reached. I wish to advert to the extraordinary position in which the Committee is placed by the action of the Government yesterday. While it has been resolved that half the rates levied on the clergy shall be remitted, we have had no figures, or facts, to justify the choice of that rather than another amount. The arguments used in support of one-half would be equally good for a remission of the whole; for if Tithe be regarded as the clergyman's professional income, and it is unjust to tax that, then it is as unjust to tax to the extent of one-half as to tax it to the full amount. My belief is that that view will be taken by the clergy, who will find the proposed remission inadequate, and therefore, like Oliver Twist, will be asking for more. Yes! and if the present Government remains in office I believe they will get it. That, however, is a contingency with which, under existing circumstances, we need not, I think, afflict ourselves.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthen, W.): The most crushing replies that the Government have had have come from Members sitting on their own side of the House, and after listening to the speeches of the Member for the College Division of Glasgow and the Member for King's Lynn, I asked myself the question whether it was really necessary for us who sit on this side, and who are opposed to the Bill root and branch, to get up and make speeches so as to shatter the Bill, which seems to have already been so dealt with as to convince anybody of its injustice. There is only one point upon which I do not agree with the Member for King's Lynn. He said that we who opposed the Bill generally opposed it because we were influenced by feelings of animosity towards the clergy. Nothing could be more unfair than that. It is perfectly true that we object to an Established

Mr. Bartley.

Church, but it is very seldom there is any feeling of animosity entertained or shown towards the clergy of this country. We are opposed to this Bill, not on that ground, but because we consider that the provisions embodied in it are unfair and unjust to the people of the country, taken as a whole; and the attitude of the Liberal Party has always been an attitude of opposition towards proposals which are put forward with a view to helping one class at the expense of another. With regard to the Amendment, this clause, in my judgment, consists of two injustices. It makes this allowance to a limited and special class, and a class who are not entitled to it. There is no other profession in the country than the clerical profession where a member, from the very moment he enters it, is assured of a certain income for the rest of his life. How are you going to assist this class? You are going to commit one injustice, and in order to support that you are going to commit another. You are making the people pay for it who ought not. There has been no serious attempt to prove that it is either fair or just that the people of London should pay £19,000 a year under this Bill and only get £900 back. So far as this Amendment is concerned, the case has only to be stated to show that the proposals of the Bill are unfair and unjust, and I hope the Division will show that that is the opinion entertained by a very large number of Members.

House that this grievance of the clergy is not a thing of to-day. It does not merely affect those who are living at the present time, but it affects those of past generations. Therefore, if you are going to have justice, there must be taken into consideration, not only those living in a Parliamentary rating area, but also those of whom they are the descendants. My argument could not be more strongly supported than by the instances of the constituencies represented by the hon. Members for West Ham and Bow and Bromley, because even at the beginning of this century what are now vast areas of houses were open agricultural fields. Where has the population come from? It has not grown up of itself. It has been drafted in from the country districts. We are told that the true Londoner, the cockney, only lasts about three generations, and that unless London was constantly recruited from the country London would dwindle away. If we are to have justice, we must trace back all these families. What would that mean? The present rating organisation would be absolutely useless. But unless you do that, how are you going to do justice? If that is true of the poor, it is equally true of the rich. It is for reasons of justice, and because this Bill is only a temporary one, not a permanent reconstruction of the rating system, that I shall record a most hearty vote against this Amendment.

Question put.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton): I believe it is not denied in any part of the

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 257; Noes, 157. (Division List, No. 244.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allhusen, Augustus H. E.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joscelyn FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baillie, J. E. B. (Inverness)
Baird, J. G. Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch.)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants)
Beckett, Ernest William

Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Brown, Alexander H.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glas.)
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William

Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chelsea, Viscount
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cruddas, William Donaldson
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of

Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drage, Geoffrey
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc.)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Ge'rg's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hill, Sir E. Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, E. B. (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. J. Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutchinson, Capt. C. W. Grice

Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieutenant-General
 Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. W. E. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir D. (Swansea)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclean, James Mackenzie
 M'Arthur, C. (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Millbank, Sir Powlett C. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morgan H. F. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. S.
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin)

Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brook
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stock, James Henry
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf'd U.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allin, Wm. (Newc.-und.-Lyme)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Baker, Sir John

Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles

Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Courtney, Rt. Hn. Leonard H.
 Crilly, Daniel
 Crombie, John William
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Denny, Colonel
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. M. (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. H. John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Sir William
 Harrington, Timothy
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale-Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thos. Cnas. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Holden, Sir Angus

Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Ed.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hn Sir U
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'lnd)
 Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Lane, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred
 Maden, John Henry
 Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Melville Beresford Valentine
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Molloy, Bernard Charles
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarth'n)
 Morgan, W. Pritch'd (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morris, Samuel
 Morton, Ed. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)

Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, Geo. Wm. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, J. A. (Northumb.)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Strachey, Edward
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, Alf. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, Geo. (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woods, Samuel
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Lionel Holland and Sir
 John Stirling-Maxwell

The next Amendment stood in the name of MR. J. H. ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.), and was as follows:—

Clause 1, page 1, line 10, to leave out from “revenue” to end of clause.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I would ask, before the hon. Member moves his Amendment, out of what account he proposes that the money should be paid if not out of the Local Taxation Account, because if it is paid out of any other account it will require a Resolution to be moved.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS: Would it not be in order for me to move it as it stands, and leave the Government at a later stage to propose the method?

*THE CHAIRMAN: The proposal of Government is to amend the Bill by pay-

ing the amount out of the Local Taxation Account; the hon. Member, by his Amendment, negatives that, and suggests something else.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS: Then I propose that it should be paid out of the Estate Duties.

THE CHAIRMAN: That, would require a preliminary resolution.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Upon a point of order, is not the hon. Gentleman quite in order in saying that it should be paid out of that part of the Estate Duties not set aside for the purposes of the Local Taxation Account; that would not require a Resolution.

*THE CHAIRMAN: It would require a resolution.

MR. WARNER: The Amendment which I have down is to prevent an injustice which would be done in years when the contribution from the Exchequer falls below the present year, in which there is a surplus, and to guard against the fund which is now set aside for other purposes being encroached upon. The Minister for Agriculture tells us that no injury will be done to the ratepayers by this Bill, because the money will be taken from the surplus of the Local Taxation Account. But it is quite possible that that fund may fall, in bad times, below the amount at which it stands this year, and the object of my Amendment is to guard against money now devoted to technical education and other purposes being taken for the relief of the clergy.

Amendment proposed,

"In page 1, line 11, after the word 'account,' to insert the words, 'in excess of such sum paid by them to Local Taxation Account in 1898.'"
—(Mr. Courtenay Warner.)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

MR. LONG: The hon. Member has not attempted to address himself to the effect of his proposition if it were carried out. As a matter of fact, this money which is taken out of the Estate Duty would not affect the expenditure he refers to; but, if it did, he does not tell us how the money is to be provided if his Amendment was carried and there was no surplus. The Government have not justified their proposal on the ground that there is a surplus. What we say is that the existence of a surplus makes it far less risky and less burdensome, and while the fund shows a steady increase, taking the average of the years since it was created,

we may contemplate the possibility of the fund not continuing to grow, or even failing in certain circumstances. We cannot, therefore, accept the Amendment.

*MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomery): The Amendment seems to me to be a serious and important one, and it ought not to be lightly dismissed. The right hon. Gentleman harps upon the old fallacy that there is a surplus. There is no surplus at all. In the English counties the Exchequer contribution which is applied to technical instruction is only paid over from year to year, and it is quite possible that if the general county fund fell short there would be a strong temptation to make good the deficiency out of the technical education funds.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I do not think the Minister of Agriculture was quite just to my hon. friend behind me, because it appears to me that he stated his object with his usual lucidity. There is a great blot on this Bill, which must be removed, and the suggestion of my hon. friend is that if there is an amount of money remaining after the technical education charge has been paid, then, and only then, the charge for the remission of these rates should be met. That is a reasonable proposal. It is most undesirable, if the clergy is to be relieved of half their rates, that it should be done out of money now being expended by county councils for technical education.

MR. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 270; Noes, 148. (Division List, No. 245.)

AYES.

Aird, John	Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Boulnois, Edmund
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden	Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Brist.)	Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Midd'sex)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants)	Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Beckett, Ernest William	Brassey, Albert
Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy	Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)	Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Brookfield, A. Montagu
Baillie, J. E. B. (Inverness)	Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Butcher, John George
Baird, John George Alexander	Beresford, Lord Charles	Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Gl'g'w)
Balcarres, Lord	Bethell, Commander	Carile William Walter
Baldwin, Alfred	Bhownagree, Sir M. M.	Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchr)	Bigwood, James	Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Bill, Charles	Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh'e)
Badbury, Frederick George	Blundell, Colonel Henry	Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Bond, Edward	Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)	Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme	Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Bartley, George C. T.	Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clark, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Col. Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Daviea, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-S.
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drage, Geoffrey
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Fitzgerald, Sir R. Penrose-Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Galloway, W. Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir A. Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Green, W. Raymond (Cambs)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.

Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Helder, Augustus
 Hill, E. E. S. (Bristol)
 Hoare, E. B. (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hn. L. R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlesworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnson, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lee
 Lafone Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttleton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclean, James Mackenzie
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh.)
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Chas. J. Coventry
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford

O'Neill, Hn. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
 Sassoone, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seeley, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smitt, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Uni.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Josph. Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr Anstruther

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)	Haldane, Richard Burdon	Nussey, Thomas Willans
Ashton, Thomas Gair	Harrington, Timothy	O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. Henry	Harwood, George	O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
Atherley-Jones, L.	Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-	Oldroyd, Mark
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)	Hazell, Walter	Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
Baker, Sir John	Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.	Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
Barlow, John Emmott	Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.	Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)	Hogan, James Francis	Pickard, Benjamin
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Holden, Sir Angus	Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Billson, Alfred	Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)	Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs. W)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling	Horniman, Frederick John	Power, Patrick Joseph
Broadhurst, Henry	Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.	Price, Robert John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson	Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)	Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James	Jacoby, James Alfred	Reckitt, Harold James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn	Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Ed.	Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
Burt, Thomas	Joicey, Sir James	Rickett, J. Compton
Buxton, Sydney Charles	Jones, David Brynmor (S'nssea	Roberts, John H. (Denbigh)
Caldwell, James	Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)	Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	Kay-Shuttlew'th. Rt. Hn. Sir U.	Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Causton, Richard Knight	Kearley, Hudson E.	Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Cawley, Frederick	Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth	Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Channing, Francis Allston	Kitson, Sir James	Smith Samuel (Flint)
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Labouchere, Henry	Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Colville, John	Lambert, George	Souttar, Robinson
Condon, Thomas Joseph	Langley, Batty	Spicer, Albert
Crilly, Daniel	Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land	Steadman, William Charles
Crombie, John William	Leng, Sir John	Stevenson, Francis S.
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)	Leuty, Thomas Richmond	Strachey, Edward
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	Lewis, John Herbert	Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Dalziel, James Henry	Lloyd-George, David	Sullivan, Donald (Westmeath)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan	Logan, John William	Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Davitt, Michael	Lyell, Sir Leonard	Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Dewar, Arthur	Macaleese, Daniel	Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Dillon, John	M'Ewan, William	Wallace, Robert
Donegan, Captain A.	M'Ghee, Richard	Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Doogan, P. C.	M'Kenna, Reginald	Wedderburn, Sir William
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)	M'Laren, Charles Benjamin	Weir, James Galloway
Duckworth, James	M'Leod, John	Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Dunn, Sir William	Maddison, Fred.	Whittaker, Thos. Palmer
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)	Maden, John Henry	Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Evans, Sir Francis H. (So'ton)	Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe	Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
Fenwick, Charles	Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)	Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
Ferguson, R. C. Monro (Leith)	Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand	Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond	Molloy, Bernard Charles	Wilson, John (Govan)
Flynn, James Christopher	Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel	Woods, Samuel
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)	Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)	Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Goddard, Daniel Ford	Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)	TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr.
Gold, Charles	Morley, Charles (Breconshire)	Herbert Gladstone and Mr.
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley	Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)	M'Arthur.
Griffith, Ellis J.	Moulton, John Fletcher	
Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton	Norton, Capt. Cecil William	

Question put accordingly, "That those words be there inserted." | The Committee divided :—Ayes, 147 ; Noes, 271. (Division List, No, 246.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)	Cameron, Robert (Durham)	Donelan, Captain A.
Ashton, Thomas Gair	Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	Doogan, P. C.
Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. B.	Causton, Richard Knight	Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Atherley-Jones, L.	Cawley, Frederick	Duckworth, James
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)	Channing, Francis Allston	Dunn, Sir William
Baker, Sir John	Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)
Barlow, John Emmott	Colville, John	Fenwick, Charles
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)	Condon, Thomas Joseph	Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Crilly, Daniel	Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Billson, Alfred	Crombie, John William	Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling	Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)	Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Broadhurst, Henry	Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	Goddard, Daniel Ford
Brunner, Sir J. Tomlinson	Dalziel, James Henry	Gold, Charles
Bryce, Right Hon. James	Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan	Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
Burt, Thomas	Davitt, Michael	Griffith, Ellis J.
Buxton, Sydney James	Dillon, John	Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Caldwell, James		Haldane, Richard Burdon

Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Sir William	M'Ewan, William	Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
Harrington, Timothy	M'Ghee, Richard	Rickett, J. Compton
Harwood, George	M'Kenna, Reginald	Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-	M'Laren, Charles Benjamin	Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Hazell, Walter	M'Leod, John	Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.	Maddison, Fred.	Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.	Maden, John Henry	Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Hogan, Janies Francis	Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe	Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Holden, Sir Angus	Mellor, Rt. Hn. J. W. (Yorks.)	Souttar, Robinson
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)	Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand	Spicer, Albert
Horniman, Frederick John	Molloy, Bernard Charles	Steadman, William Charles
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.	Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)	Stevenson, Francis S.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)	Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)	Strachey, Edward
Jacoby, James Alfred	Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merth.)	Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Ed.	Morley, C. (Breconshire)	Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Joicey, Sir James	Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)	Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.	Moulton, John Fletcher	Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire	Norton, Capt. C. William	Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hn. Sir U	Nussey, Thomas Willans	Wallace, Robert
Kearley, Hudson E.	O'Brien, J. F. X. (Cork)	Wedderburn, Sir William
Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth	O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)	Weir, James Galloway
Kitson, Sir James	Oldroyd, Mark	Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Labouchere, Henry	Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)	Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Lambert, George	Palmer, G. Wm. (Reading)	Williams, John C. (Notts.)
Langley, Batty	Paulton, James Mellor	Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'lnd)	Pease, J. A. (Northumb.)	Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Leng, Sir John	Pickard, Benjamin	Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Leuty, Thomas Richmond	Pickersgill, Edward Hare	Wilson, John (Govan)
Lewis, John Herbert	Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs, SW)	Woods, Samuel
Logan, John William	Power, Patrick Joseph	Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Lyell, Sir Leonard	Price, Robert John	TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
MacAleece, Daniel	Provand, Andrew Dryburgh	Mr. Courtenay Warner and
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)	Reckitt, Harold James	Mr. Samuel Evans.

NOES.

Aird, John	Butcher, John George	Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden	Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Gl'sg'w	Dorington, Sir John Edward
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Carlile, William Walter	Doughty, George
Atkinson, Right Hon. John	Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
Bailey, James (Walworth)	Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh	Doxford, William Theodore
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)	Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Drage, Geoffrey
Baird, John George Alexander	Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)	Drucker, A.
Balcarres, Lord	Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Baldwin, Alfred	Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.	Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir W. Hart
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)	Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r	Fardell, Sir T. George
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)	Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Banbury, Frederick George	Chelsea, Viscount	Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man.)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Clare, Octavius Leigh	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)	Clarke, Sir Edward (Plym'th)	Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Bartley, George C. T.	Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	Fisher, William Hayes
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Coddington, Sir William	Fison, Frederick William
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Brist'l	Coghill, Douglas Harry	FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose.
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants)	Cohen, Benjamin Louis	FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Beckett, Ernest William	Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole	Flower, Ernest
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Compton, Lord Alwyne	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Ed. T. D.	Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Gedge, Sydney
Beresford, Lord Charles	Cranborne, Viscount	Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Bethell, Commander	Cripps, Charles Alfred	Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.	Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Bigwood, James	Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)	Gilliat, John Saunders
Bill, Charles	Cruddas, William Donaldson	Gosson, Sir Augustus F.
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Goldsworthy, Major-General
Bond, Edward	Curzon, Viscount	Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme	Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Dalkeith, Earl of	Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. St. Geo's)
Boulnois, Edmund	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middles'x	Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Goulding, Edward Alfred
Bowles, T. Gibbs'n (King's Lynn)	Denny, Colonel	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Brassey, Albert	Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-	Greene, W. R. (Canabs.)
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Gretton, John

Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Helder, Augustus
 Hill, Sir E. S. (Bristol)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. L. R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. J. H. Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thos. (Loudonerry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. W. E. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'ns')
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William

Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclean, James Mackenzie
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Millbank, Sir Powlett Chas. Jn.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monmouthsh)
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthr. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'd)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles

Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Ox'fd Univ.)
 Thornburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quinn, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

It being after half-past Five of the clock, the Chairman proceeded to interrupt the Business.

Whereupon Mr. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question 'That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question 'That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 266; Noes, 151. (Division List, No. 247.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Atkinson, Right Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
 Bailey, James (Walworth)

Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)

Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin

Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Benrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Beresford, Lord Charles
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonson, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscauen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Gl'sg' w
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derby.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clark, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Right Hon. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drage, Geoffrey
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man'r
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes

Fison, Frederick William
 Fitzgerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Ge'g's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'y
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Helder, Augustus
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampst'd
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnston, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Koswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. William E. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir D. (Swansea)
 Loder, Gerald W. Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. H. W. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William

Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclean, James Mackenzie
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
 Malcolm, Ian.
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Montagu, Hon. J. S. (Hants.)
 More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thshire)
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs., Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. T. Myles
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, J. Parker (Lanarksh.)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Straus, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier

Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
Thorburn, Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Usborne, Thomas
Valentia, Viscount

Ward, Hn. Robert A. (Crewe)
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wylie, Alexander

Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Baker, Sir John
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Crilly, Daniel
Crombie, John William
Curran, Thos. B. (Donegal)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davitt, Michael
Dewar, Arthur
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Dunn, Sir William
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Evans, Sir F. H. (South ton)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gold, Charles
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton

Haldane, Richard Burdon
Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Sir William
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-Hazell, Walter
Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hogan, James Francis
Holden, Sir Angus
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Ed.
Joycey, Sir James
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Lybouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Leng, Sir John
Leuty, Thomas Richmond
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Logan, John William
Lyell, Sir Leonard
MacAleese, Daniel
M' Ewan, William
M' Ghée, Richard
M' Kenna, Reginald
M' Laren, Charles Benjamin
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks)
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Mollov, Bernard Charles
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
Morley, Charles (Breckshire)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William

Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
Oldroyd, Mark
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
Palmer, George Wm (Reading)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs, S. W.)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Reckitt, Harold James
Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfar.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Alf (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woods, Samuel
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. M'Arthur.

Question put accordingly, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill." | The Committee divided :—Ayes, 259 ; Noes, 151. (Division List, No. 248.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baillie, J. E. B. (Inverness)

Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred

{12 JULY 1899}

(Rates) Bill.

Balfour, Rt Hn A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plauket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Beresford, Lord Charles
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonson, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasg.)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cazier, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chathm.)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drage, Geoffrey
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.

Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
 Ferguson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Mane'r)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus F.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo'.)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, W. R. - (Câms.)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hall, Right Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Helder, Augustus
 Hill, Sir E. Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, E. B. (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howard, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnston, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut. General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. W. Edw. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'ns)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William

Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclean, James Mackenzie
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edin. W.)
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
 More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fd. (Monm'thsh.)
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. H. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seeley, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, J. Parker (Lanarksh.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Osmiskirk)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Sir Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier

Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemaech, Henry James
 Tonlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount

Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos'ph Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wylye, Alexander

Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herb. Henry
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Baker, Sir John
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
 Crilly, Daniel
 Crombie, John William
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.

Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Sir William
 Harrington, Timothy
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale-Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, J. E.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kinloch, Sir John G. S.
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 MacAleece, Daniel
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred
 Maden, John Henry
 Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
 Mellor, Rt. Hn. J. W. (Yorks)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Molloy, Bernard Charles
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarth'n)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merth'r
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moulton, John Fletcher

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, Geo. Wm. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs, SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Strachey, Edward
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Wallace, Robert
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woods, Samuel
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur.

Whereupon the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

It being after Six of the clock, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

Adjourned at five minutes after Six of the clock

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 13th July 1899.

ROYAL ASSENT.

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:

1. Fine or Imprisonment (Scotland and Ireland).
2. Reformatory Schools Amendment.
3. Education of Children.
4. London Government.
5. Local Government Orders (No. 2). Provisional
6. Local Government Orders (No. 3). Provisional
7. Local Government Orders (No. 5). Provisional
8. Local Government Orders (No. 7). Provisional
9. Local Government Orders (No. 8). Provisional
10. Local Government Orders (No. 11). Provisional
11. Local Government Orders (Gas). Provisional
12. Local Government Order (Housing of Working Classes). Provisional
13. Local Government Orders (Poor Law). Provisional
14. Housing of the Working Classes Provisional Order (Borrow-stounness).
15. Electric Lighting Order (No. 3). Provisional
16. Electric Lighting Orders (No. 5). Provisional
17. Electric Lighting Orders (No. 6). Provisional
18. Electric Lighting Orders (No. 7). Provisional
19. Electric Lighting Orders (No. 8). Provisional
20. Electric Lighting Orders (No. 9). Provisional
21. Electric Lighting Orders (No. 16). Provisional
22. Electric Lighting Order (No. 18). Provisional
23. Electric Lighting Orders (No. 19). Provisional
24. Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (Liverpool).

VOL. LXXIV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

25. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1).
26. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1).
27. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2).
28. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3).
29. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) (No. 2).
30. Military Lands Provisional Order.
31. London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway (Pensions).
32. Friends' Provident Institution.
33. Skipton Urban District Gas.
34. Mid Kent Gas.
35. Wishaw Water.
36. Shotley Bridge and Consett District Gas.
37. Aberdeen Corporation.
38. Cardiff Railway.
39. Rhondda Urban District Council.
40. Hastings and St. Leonards Gas.
41. Belfast and Northern Counties Railways.
42. Colonial and Foreign Banks Guarantee Fund.
43. Grosvenor Chapel (London).
44. Hampstead Church (Emmanuel, West End).
45. Brynmawr and Western Valleys Railway.
46. Barton-on-Sea Water.
47. Lanarkshire (Middle Ward District) Water.
48. Edinburgh Corporation.
49. Wetherby District Water.
50. Airdrie and Coatbridge Water.
51. Gainsborough Urban District Council (Gas).
52. Wick and Pulteney Harbours.
53. Dundee Gas, Street Improvements, and Tramways.
54. Cork Corporation (Finance).
55. South-Eastern Railway.
56. Fishguard Water and Gas.
57. Bury Corporation.
58. Bury Corporation Water.
59. Barry Railway.
60. Kensington and Notting Hill Electric Lighting.
61. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (New Railways).
62. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Various Powers).
63. Cobham Gas.
64. Stretford Gas.
65. Central Electric Supply.
66. Shirebrook and District Gas.

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67. South Staffordshire Stipendiary Justice.
68. West Middlesex Water.
69. Church Stretton Water.
70. St. Neot's Water.
71. St. James's and Pall Mall Electric Light.
72. Belfast Water.
73. Great Central Railway.
74. London, Chatham, and Dover Railway.
75. Scunthorpe Urban District Gas and Water.
76. Ionian Bank.
77. Inverness Harbour.
78. Nottingham Corporation.
79. Taff Vale Railway.
80. Transvaal Mortgage Loan and Finance Company.
81. Great Yarmouth Pier.
82. Lisburn Urban District Councils.
83. Aire and Calder Navigation.
84. Midland Railway.
85. Jones' Divorce.
86. Yorke Estate.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

Committee to meet To-morrow.

BRISTOL GAS BILL [H.L.]

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to, with an Amendment ; and Bill returned to the Commons.

WARRINGTON CORPORATION BILL [H.L.]

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The Order made on Tuesday last discharged, and Bill committed.

LEEDS CORPORATION BILL.
Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.
A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

MILLWALL DOCK BILL.
Reported without Amendment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

Reported with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Tuesday next.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY BILL.
MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

FISHGUARD AND ROSSLARE RAILWAYS AND HARBOURS BILL.

The Queen's consent signified ; and Bills reported with Amendments.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition having been withdrawn ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table : The Orders made on the 27th of June and the 4th of July discharged ; and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL.

Moved that the Order made on the 9th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be read 2^a ; agreed to ; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed.

LEITH HARBOUR AND DOCKS BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH (CARDIFF) BILL [H.L.]

BRIGHTON MARINE PALACE AND PIER BILL [H.L.]

GREAT GRIMSBY STREET TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 4) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 9) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Tuesday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL

House in Committee (according to Order); Bills reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negative; and Bills to be read 3^a on Tuesday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

AFRICA, No. 6 (1899).

Report by the Mombasa-Victoria (Uganda) Railway Committee on the progress of the works, 1898-99 (with a map).

SIERRA LEONE.

Report by Her Majesty's Commissioner, and correspondence on the subject of the insurrection in the Sierra Leone Protectorate, 1898. Part II. Evidence and documents.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2315. Venezuela.

No. 2316. Turkey (Baghdad) and Busorah.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Orders made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of—

I. A light railway in the County of Essex, between Corringham, Thames Haven, and Kynochtown.

II. Light railways in the County of Lancaster, in the parishes of Barton-upon-Irwell and Stretford.

III. A light railway between Axminster, in the County of Devon, and Lyme Regis, in the County of Dorset.

IV. Light railways from Colwyn Bay to Llandudno, in the Counties of Denbigh and Carnarvon.

SEA FISHERIES ACT, 1868.

Orders for fishery grants, 1898-99: Report of the Board of Trade, under Part III. of the Act.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITIONS.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL [H.L.]

Petition in favour of ; of the Religious Society of Friends; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

VIVISECTION.

Petition for suppression of the practice of: of a Meeting in Bayswater; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

POOR LAW ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.]

Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments; the Report thereof to be received on Tuesday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. No. 164.)

COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES BILL [H.L.]

Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments; the Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing Committee to be received To-morrow; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 165.)

MARRIAGES VALIDITY (No. 2) BILL [H.L.]

Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment, and to be read 3^a To-morrow.

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS (ENGLAND AND IRELAND) BILL.

Order of the Day for the House to be put into Committee, read.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: My Lords, I rise to move that it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to extend the scope of the Bill to Scotland. I think it will be convenient that I should explain, at the time of moving the Instruction, the general reasons why I intend to move the Amendments standing in my name on the Paper, and which I shall submit to your Lordships when

the House is in Committee. I feel certain, from what he said in the course of his speech, that my Instruction will have the sympathy of the noble Duke who moved and carried the Second Reading of this Bill the other night. It will be within your Lordships' recollection that on the 4th of May a similar Bill, applying to Scotland only, was lost in this House. The noble Lord who moved the rejection of this Bill on Tuesday (Lord Shand) also moved the rejection of the Bill applying only to Scotland, and he did so on the ground that England and Ireland were excluded from it. That was also the ground of objection taken by the noble Marquess at the head of the Government. I hope the Amendments I shall move presently will contrive a double debt to pay. They will, I believe, relieve this Bill of any possible imputation of having been introduced with a view to exceptional treatment for England and Ireland to the exclusion of Scotland, and, at the same time, will admit Scotland to the advantages which we conceive will follow the passage of this Bill. Therefore, I beg to move the Instruction which stands in my name.

Moved—

"That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to extend the scope of the Bill to Scotland."—(*The Lord Ribblesdale*)

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, the Instruction which has been moved by the noble Lord is to include Scotland within the scope of this Bill, and, as has been stated, your Lordships have already unanimously rejected, without a Division, a Bill of this kind applying to Scotland. My noble friend said the reason why the noble Marquess at the head of the Government, and the noble and learned Lord (Lord Shand) opposed the former Bill was, that Scotland was being treated in an exceptional manner, and he implied that that was really the only ground of argument against the Scotch Bill. That was only part of the argument. I think a strong part of the noble Marquess's argument was that this legislation, if sanctioned, would eventually find its way into your Lordships' houses, and that you would have inspectors looking after your housemaids. We have many Scotch Peers in this House, and I think it is very strange that no Scotch Peer should have moved this Instruction, which strictly affects Scotland, but that it should have

been left to a humanitarian Yorkshireman to come to the protection of the maids in Scotland. Your Lordships, no doubt, have excellent reasons for the course you have taken with reference to this kind of legislation. Whether it comes in one form or another, the principle is the same. You kicked it out, almost without a word, and without a Division, in a pretty full House five weeks ago, but now, when it comes up in a more concrete form, affecting England and Ireland only, you agree to it by a majority of three to one, with two of the right rev. Prelates at your back supporting it. As one of the right rev. Prelates is a Scotchman, I should have expected something very different from him. I would ask your Lordships to consider whether inconsistent legislation such as this will in any way tend to raise the character of your Lordships' House as a deliberative body on whom the country can rely. I leave it to the consciences of noble Lords to answer that question. I merely wish to enter my protest, in the strongest possible terms, against this Bill, and I hope your Lordships will believe that, notwithstanding my opposition to the Bill, I have as much compassion for those who suffer as any of the noble Lords who appear to think they have a monopoly of humanity because they go in for this sort of legislation. I protest against this Bill, because I regard it as peddling, hysterical, humanitarian, vote-catching legislation, for which this great Mother of Parliaments was never intended nor devised, and which is calculated to make Parliamentarians of the past turn in their graves.

LORD NORTON: My Lords, before we should be asked to include Scotland within the scope of this Bill, I think we should have some further information as to its provisions. Inspectors are alluded to in the Bill, but there is no provision for the inspectorate nor for its cost. Supposing there are only some 500,000 shops in the United Kingdom to be inspected by these inspectors, their appointment must mean a large increase in the number of civil servants. It may be that when the number and the cost of the inspectors to be appointed is ascertained, Scotland may not agree with the noble Lord who moved this Instruction that it would be an advantage to be included in this Bill, but might regard this as a Bill to be avoided. I therefore think we should have some information as to the cost of

Lord Ribblesdale.

these inspectors, and how they are to be employed, before we are called upon to extend the provisions of the Bill to Scotland.

*THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER: The question of the appointment of these inspectors was gone into in the other House, and the last clause of the Bill provides that it shall be read and construed as one with the Shop Hours Acts, 1892 to 1895. I am informed that the same inspectors who are appointed under those Acts will look after the provision of seats under this Act, if passed, and that there will consequently be no additional expense thrown upon the country.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN: The noble Earl on the Cross Benches (the Earl of Wemyss) has appealed to Scotch Peers with regard to this Instruction. I have the honour to be a Scotch Peer, and I would appeal to the House to accede to the motion of the noble Lord opposite. I regard this as a measure which will prove beneficial to womankind, and I do not see why those benefits should not be extended to Scotland.

THE EARL OF ABERDEEN: My Lords, I had intended moving an Instruction in the direction of that moved by the noble Lord (Lord Ribblesdale), but he has forestalled me. Seeing that the noble Lord was already in the field, I did not burden the Notice Paper with an Amendment in this direction, but I hope your Lordships will not be under any sense of misgiving as to the reception which this Instruction, if adopted, will meet with in Scotland. This is not a question which has been sprung upon the country, or upon Parliament, in an unexpected way; the movement has been going on, I may say, for the past twenty years. It came under my notice twenty years ago in connection with a pamphlet written by Dr. Ediss, who in forcible language drew attention to the health aspect of the question. It has also been frequently alluded to in Scotland. The noble Marquess at the head of the Government, in his speech on the Second Reading of this Bill, stated that some of the lady Commissioners in their reports to the Labour Commission spoke as if the question of providing seats for shop assistants was an altogether subordinate and apparently immaterial matter. I think, if the noble Marquess would look again into what he properly described as

a bulky volume to which he referred, he will see that there are allusions in it strongly advocating the provision for counter seats for shop assistants. I hold in my hand a semi-official report made by one of the lady Commissioners to whom the noble Marquess referred in terms of just appreciation. I refer to Miss Irwin, who, in numerous instances, alludes to the importance of the provision of seats. Under the heading "Provision for Health and Comfort," she says:

"The provision of some form of seats in shops should be compulsory."

As to the feeling in Scotland, I venture to predict that public opinion generally is prepared for this measure. I cannot help thinking that it was more or less an accident that the Seats for Shop Assistants (Scotland) Bill did not pass on the former occasion. Therefore I, for one, welcome the present opportunity of including Scotland in this Bill, and I certainly hope the Instruction will be carried.

EARL COWPER: I, my lords, am also a Scotch Peer, and I am very proud of that fact. Scotchmen in general are supposed by some Englishmen not to be very fond of spending their money, but I think it is a very great slur upon that country to suggest that they would object to being included in this Bill merely on account of the expense which would be incurred in appointing the necessary inspectors. I am sure no one in Scotland would for one moment give any consideration to that matter. A doubt has been expressed as to whether there is any strong feeling in the country on this subject. The noble Earl on the Cross Benches (the Earl of Wemyss) has accused us of having voted for the sake of election purposes. I do not think this House would do anything of the kind, but, if we are likely to catch any votes by it, it looks as if the country were in favour of the Bill. In my opinion, the House of Lords will stand in even a better position with the country than it does now, which is saying a good deal, if it passes this Bill.

THE EARL OF LAUDERDALE: I am a Scotch Peer, my Lords, and I am glad to have the opportunity of saying that the Instruction which has been moved by the noble Lord opposite has my thorough and entire support.

On Question, agreed to.

Moved, That the House do now resolve itself into Committee, agreed to.

House in Committee accordingly.

Clause 1 :—

*THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER: It has been represented to me that under this clause too much power is given to inspectors with regard to the provision of seats. Under the clause as it stands, inspectors would be able to say to the shopkeeper, " You must put a chair here," or, " You must put a chair there." We think it better to leave the Bill more elastic in this respect. The Bill says that the employer shall provide seats behind the counter and in the show-rooms, or in such other place as an inspector under this Act may direct, for the use of the assistants employed by him. My Amendment proposes to leave out the words "as an inspector under this Act may direct," and insert "as may be conveniently used by the female assistants." This Amendment has been suggested by the Drapers' Chamber of Trade, and I hope your Lordships will adopt it.

Amendment moved—

"In line 10, to leave out from 'place' to 'for' and insert 'as may be conveniently used by the female assistants.'"—(*The Duke of Westminster.*)

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause," resolved in the negative.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I would like to ask whether there are to be inspectors under this Bill or not?

*THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER: Yes.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: What are they to do?

*THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER: They are to see that every shop in the United Kingdom has seats, either behind the counter or in the showrooms, or in some other convenient place, for the use of the female assistants.

On Question, "That the words proposed to be inserted stand part of the clause," agreed to.

*THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER: The clause provides that the seats shall be in the proportion of not less than one seat to every two assistants employed in each room. I have an Amendment which provides that the proportion shall be not

Earl Cowper.

less than one seat to every three assistants.

Amendment moved—

"In line 12, to leave out 'two' and insert 'three.'"—(*The Duke of Westminster.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: The clause enacts that the employer shall provide seats behind the counter "and" in the show-rooms. I presume the noble Duke means behind the counter "or" in the show-rooms, otherwise he will have a double set of seats.

THE EARL OF MAYO: There are assistants both behind the counter and in the show-rooms. These are two different departments altogether.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I should like to know from my noble friend whether, when there is not sufficient room between the counter and the wall for seats to be placed, the shopkeeper will have to take another shop.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): The clause to which the noble Earl refers has been passed.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Then I will raise the point on the Third Reading.

Clause 2, agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

LORD RIBBLESDALE: I beg to move an Amendment to this clause consequential upon the Instruction to include Scotland, and to which your Lordships have agreed.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 19, to leave out 'shall extend to England and Ireland only, and.'"—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

*THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (Viscount CROSS): After the decision of the House the other night with regard to England and Ireland, it is quite clear that Scotland must be inserted.

On Question, "That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause," resolved in the negative.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4, amended and agreed to.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee, and to be printed as amended. (No. 166.) (Title altered to "Seats for Shop Assistants Bill.")

QUESTIONS.

KINGSTOWN HARBOUR.

***LORD CLONBROCK:** My Lords, I beg to ask whether Her Majesty's Government are aware that the staff of the harbour-master of Kingstown has been reduced by the Harbour Commissioners, in spite of his repeated representations, to such an extent as to render it quite inadequate for the due discharge of his official duties; and, if so, whether they are satisfied as to the security to life and property afforded to vessels entering and leaving that harbour, or using it either as a harbour of refuge or in the ordinary course of trade. The Harbour Commissioners of Kingstown are appointed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and are empowered by statute to make bye-laws for the regulation of the harbour. The harbour-master is also appointed by the Lord Lieutenant, and has certain duties specified by Statute to perform, subject always to the regulations of the Harbour Commissioners. But in order to properly perform his duties it stands to reason that he must be supplied with an adequate staff. Of late years, owing to the acceleration of the mail service, the hours of duty of his staff have been considerably increased, for, as part of their duties consists in securing a fair way for the incoming and outgoing mail-boats, the men are practically engaged from about four o'clock in the morning till about nine o'clock in the evening. Before the last acceleration, the harbour-master's staff consisted of six boatmen, and by working alternately long and short days he was able to have four men always on duty. But since the acceleration owing to the increased hours it became necessary to divide the men into two reliefs, leaving only three men on duty at a time. This number the present harbour-master, Captain Crofton, from his professional experience, deemed to be quite inadequate for the due discharge of his official duties, and accordingly he deemed it his duty to express this opinion to the Harbour Commissioners, and asked that his staff might be increased. Some correspondence ensued, and the result has

been that his staff is now reduced to four men, leaving only two on duty at one time. At Holyhead, which is under the Marine Department of the Board of Trade, the harbour-master has six boatmen constantly on duty, although his duties are not so arduous as those of the harbour-master of Kingstown. He has no night work, nothing to do with the arrival and departure of the mail steamers, and Holyhead is not, like Kingstown, a yachting station. But Captain Crofton represented that if inadequate for ordinary duty, his staff, if so reduced, would be still more unable to cope with emergencies which might at any time arise. He pointed out that in heavy weather it would be necessary to put one of his men on board any vessel entering the harbour to take charge of her, and bring her up to her moorings. It does not require much knowledge of nautical matters to know that with only two men in a boat neither can leave her. He was then told that in case of emergency he might draw men from the engineers' staff. This he showed to be impracticable, as landsmen in a boat in a heavy sea would be only in the way, and, moreover, as the working hours of the engineers' staff were shorter than those of his, he might not be able to get the extra hands just when most wanted. Finding that the Harbour Commissioners, although a lay body without any nautical experience, were not disposed to listen to arguments founded on experience, he requested them to send the correspondence to the Lord Lieutenant. This they refused to do. He thereupon, thinking that, as he had been appointed by a former Lord Lieutenant, he was responsible to his Excellency, he addressed a communication to the Lord Lieutenant himself, and was informed in reply that the Lord Lieutenant had been advised that he had no power to interfere with the regulations of the Harbour Commissioners. It appears the Treasury have also no power to interfere. Encouraged apparently by this immunity from all criticism, and resenting the fact that Captain Crofton could not concur in views which his professional experience forbade him to adopt, the Commissioners have assumed towards him a most dictatorial and overbearing tone. They have done their best to weaken his authority over his men, by sending officials down to give instructions without any reference to the harbour-master, and they have done everything in their power to

make his position an intolerable one. Among other acts of petty persecution, they have lately curtailed his leave of absence on the ground that, taking his pay into account, he ranks as a third-class clerk. Captain Crofton is a retired captain in Her Majesty's Navy, and has held his present appointment for twenty-two years. He was appointed by the Duke of Marlborough, with instructions to co-operate in every way with the authorities. This he has done, and no complaint has been made against him. He is a man of most punctual and regular habits, and has always been most zealous in the discharge of his duties. I have brought this matter forward, not only in the interest of Captain Crofton, who is a near relative of mine, but also on public grounds. It appears to me to be a perilous state of things that the harbour should be left under the control of a board of laymen, who refuse to listen to the representations of an experienced naval officer. I cannot think that Her Majesty's Government can approve of this, and I feel sure that the owners of vessels frequenting this port would be most apprehensive as to the safety of their vessels if they knew that the staff of the harbour-master, on whom they must rely for the protection of their interests, has been reduced to such an extent that the security to life and property afforded to vessels entering and leaving the harbour is of a most inadequate character.

THE EARL OF CLANWILLIAM: My Lords, the behaviour of the Harbour Commissioners towards the harbour-master of Kingstown has been outrageous; there is no other word for it. They have reduced his staff without asking his opinion, and, what is more, there is nobody to whom he can appeal for redress. On one occasion they sent to say that they intended to reduce his staff by one out of two, and asked which man he wished to keep. The harbour-master replied giving the name of the man he wished to retain, but the Harbour Commissioners discharged that man and kept the one whom the harbour-master said should be dismissed. That shows the state of things that has been going on, and how these Commissioners do their work. I do not suppose you could find a similar case in any Government Depart-

Lord Clonbrock.

ment either in England or in Ireland. I have no doubt that the motive of the Commissioners is economy, but I think it is a very mistaken one. It will be impossible during the winter time for the staff to properly perform their duties, and if, from any failure on the part of the harbour-master to afford the necessary assistance to vessels running in in distress or in a gale of wind, those vessels have to incur demurrage, the Government will be responsible. I hope the whole subject will be fully inquired into, and that the Harbour Commissioners will be called upon to give evidence before an independent Committee of experts, who shall form their opinion on the matter.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: My Lords, I am afraid I cannot now go into any of the questions which have been raised by the noble Lords who have spoken. I can only give the House the formal answer which I have been instructed to give by the Treasury, and which has just been sent down to me. This is a matter which comes under the direction of the Treasury, and not under the Irish Office. The Commissioners of the Harbour, and not the harbour-master, are, of course, responsible for the management of the harbour. The staff was re-arranged early in this year. The Commissioners of Kingstown Harbour considered that if the harbour-master took a more active part in the discharge of his duties the staff might be reduced from twelve to eleven. The harbour-master was instructed to report immediately any case in which the authorised staff was proved to be insufficient. No such instance has been reported. The Commissioners are satisfied that, if the harbour-master properly carries out the instructions given to him, there is no danger whatever to life or property in the harbour. The noble Earl (the Earl of Clanwilliam) pointed out that there was a difficulty in ascertaining to whom the harbour-master was entitled to appeal in order to obtain redress. In the absence of the noble and learned Lord, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, I cannot express any opinion, but I will make inquiries into the matter if the noble Earl desires.

***LORD CLONBROCK:** I do not consider the answer of the noble Lord at all satisfactory. I think the Harbour Commissioners have treated the Kingstown harbour-master very badly, and while

they have never made any complaint against, are now trying to indirectly throw a slur on his professional capacity in order to hide their own shortcomings. I regard that as most unworthy conduct on their part.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDON-DERRY: My Lords, listening to this matter as an outsider, and looking at it from an impartial point of view, I consider the answer of the Treasury unsatisfactory to a degree. To my mind the question resolves itself into one of two things—either the harbour-master is competent or he is incompetent. If he is incompetent, the sooner he is dismissed the better; but if he is competent—and I gather that he is, seeing that no complaint has been made against him—it does appear that a system of petty tyranny has been directed against him, either to hunt him out of his berth or to make his life so unpleasant that he would have to retire. I think my noble friend is entitled to a more satisfactory answer. The noble Earl who has replied to my noble friend has the highest sense of justice and honour, and I do not think he would tolerate such tyranny against an official under the Department with which he is connected. I quite understand that he has given the best answer he is able to give. So far as I can gather, the Kings-town harbour-master has done nothing to merit the censure of the Commissioners, and there has never been any complaint against him. If my noble friend takes my advice, he will not let the question drop, but will draw further attention to the matter.

***LORD CLONBROCK:** In conformity with the advice of my noble friend and with the suggestion of my noble and gallant friend, Lord Clanwilliam, I will call attention to the subject again, and move for a Committee of Inquiry.

House adjourned at a quarter-past Five of the o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 13th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

No Standing Orders not previously inquired into applicable.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders not previously inquired into are applicable, namely,

WESTON-SUPER-MARE GRAND PIER BILL [Lords].

Ordered, that the Bill be read a second time.

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER BILL.

Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to.

FURNESS RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS AND WATER) BILL [Lords].

GLASGOW CORPORATION (TRAMWAYS, &c.) BILL [Lords].

GREAT YARMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

KIRKCALDY CORPORATION AND TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

LOWESTOFT WATER AND GAS BILL [Lords].

TOTLAND WATER BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

PORTSMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Report [11th July] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Ordered, that the Bill be read a second time.—(Dr. Farquharson.)

PETITIONS.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petitions for alteration of law; from Ferry-Port-on-Craig, and Montrose; to lie upon the Table.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Petitions against; from United Presbyterian Synod, and Kirkcaldy; to lie upon the Table.

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a light railway in the County of Essex, between Corringham, Thames Haven, and Kynochtown (Corringham Light Railway Order, 1899) [by Command] to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of light railways in the County of Lancaster, in the parishes of Barton-upon-Irwell and Stretford (West Manchester Light Railway Order, 1899) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a light railway between Axminster, in the County of Devon, and Lyme Regis, in the County of Dorset (Axminster and Lyme Regis Light Railway Order, 1899) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of light railways from Colwyn Bay to Llandudno, in the Counties of Denbigh and Carnarvon (Llandudno and Colwyn Bay Light Railways Order, 1898) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SIERRA LEONE.

Copy presented of Report by Her Majesty's Commissioner, and correspondence on the subject of the Insurrection in the Sierra Leone Protectorate, 1898. Part II. Evidence and Documents [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2315 and 2316 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AFRICA (No. 6, 1899).

Copy presented of Report by the Mombasa-Victoria Uganda Railway Committee on the progress of the works, 1898-9 (with a map) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ROYAL ASSENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went;—and, being returned;—

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills. (See first item in House of Lords Report this day; *ante*, page 661.)

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection that they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures: Mr. Collery; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Power.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Eight Reports brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

METROPOLITAN POLICE [SALARIES].

Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the Salaries of the Commissioner, Receiver, and Assistant Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police (Queen's recommendation signified), upon Monday next.—(Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley.)

QUESTIONS.

BELLEVILLE BOILERS.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, whether, before finally sanctioning the adoption of the Belleville boiler for battle ships and cruisers now under construction or contemplated, of which the total cost will exceed £10,000,000, he will order a practical test to be made of the efficiency of these

boilers under all conditions, as compared with other boilers ; and whether, with this object in view, he will attach the "Canopus," on completion, to the Channel Fleet, and will send a vessel of the "Diadem" class and of the "Edgar" class respectively to carry out Naval reliefs in company.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): The efficiency of the Belleville boiler has been practically tested under various conditions. My hon. friend does not seem to know that vessels with Belleville boilers have already been attached to the Channel Fleet, or that the "Powerful" has been doing excellent and regular service among the cruisers of the China Station. The adoption of the Belleville boiler for the battleships and first class cruisers now under construction has been definitely decided on, and the question so far as these ships are concerned cannot be reopened. The "Canopus" will be commissioned as soon as she is ready, and attached to the Mediterranean Fleet. I cannot make any definite statement in reply to the third question, but the Admiralty are taking advantage of every suitable opportunity to test these boilers to the fullest extent with a view to further possible improvements.

THE "SHARPSHOOTER."

MR. PENN (Lewisham): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty how many miles the "Sharpshooter" has run on her boiler trials, how many tubes has she in her boilers, and how many tubes have been renewed during these trials.

MR. GOSCHEN: The number of miles run on boiler trials, exclusive of distance run during contractors' trials, was 8,698. The number of tubes in boilers is 1,080. No tubes were renewed during these trials.

HASLAR HOSPITAL.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he can state if the medical authorities were consulted in connection with the recent appointment to Haslar Hospital ; and whether the appointment made was in accordance with their recommendation.

MR. GOSCHEN: The qualifications of all the officers whose seniority might en-

title them to consideration for the appointment in question were thoroughly and exhaustively sifted in consultation with the Medical Authorities. The responsibility for the ultimate choice rested, as I have stated before, with me. Neither as regards executive, medical, or any other officers am I prepared to say on whose recommendation I act. I must say I think the hon. and gallant Member is somewhat ill-advised in pressing this question.

CAPTAIN NORTON: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered my question as to whether the appointment was in accordance with the recommendation of the medical authorities.

MR. GOSCHEN: I have answered the question. I said that the responsibility rested with me and not with the medical authorities, or any class of officers. I am not prepared to state on what recommendation I acted.

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

SIR U. KAY - SHUTTLEWORTH (Lancashire, N.E., Clitheroe): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty when the Naval Works Bill will be introduced.

MR. GOSCHEN: The Bill is in the hands of the printers, and I hope to be able to arrange with the Leader of the House to introduce it early in the coming week.

H.M.S. "JACKAL."

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he is aware that in the space of four months, between 1st January and 29th April, the crew of H.M.S. "Jackal" were allowed twenty-three days' leave of absence ; and whether, in future, the "Jackal" will be more regularly on duty.

MR. GOSCHEN: No, Sir. During the period in question, the crew of the "Jackal" have had only their ordinary leave for the night or for the Sunday when in harbour, besides the usual fourteen days' leave at Christmas, which was given by watches in accordance with custom.

MR. WEIR: Does the right hon. Gentleman dispute the accuracy of the statement made by the Lord Advocate ?

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

PLYMOUTH BREAKWATER WORKS.

MR. MILDMAY (Devon, Totnes) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether it would be possible that workmen employed upon Plymouth Breakwater should be conveyed to and from their work on the steam-tug lately provided for in the Estimates instead of in open boats.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) : This is now being done. The Superintending Engineer gave notice to the workmen of the new arrangements in April last.

ARMY TENTS.

MR. DUNCOMBE (Cumberland, Egremont) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, during the present summer, there have been, or will be, issued to Volunteer battalions going into camp tents of the pattern known as "Mark 2," many of which are worn out and unserviceable, and quite unfit to withstand rain.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) : The General Officer Commanding a District is responsible that all tents issued in his district are serviceable. It may therefore be taken that no "Mark 2" tents will be issued unless they are serviceable.

MR. DUNCOMBE : Is the hon. Gentleman aware that some of these tents have been already issued this year ?

MR. WYNDHAM : If so, then, in the opinion of the General Officer Commanding, they are serviceable.

VOLUNTEER UNIFORMS.

MR. DUNCOMBE : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the rapid assimilation of the uniform of Volunteer Infantry battalions to that of their territorial regiments, he is prepared, in the case of Volunteer battalions clothed in scarlet, to amend paragraph 221B of the Volunteer Regulations, so as to permit of such Volunteer battalions using the manual exercises used by Infantry of the Line and amend Section 865 of the Volunteer Regulations, so as to permit the wearing of the Infantry sash by officers and sergeants.

MR. WYNDHAM : The question of assimilating the manual of exercise of Volunteers to that of the Regular forces is now under consideration. The question of wearing the sash has been carefully considered, and the Secretary of State does not think it advisable to make any change.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AS VOLUNTEERS.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) : I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he is aware that great hardship prevails amongst Volunteers who are working in Government factories owing to the fact that these men cannot attend annual camp drill without losing their pay ; and whether, with a view to the further efficiency of the corps, he can hold out any prospects which are more likely to induce the men to put in more regular attendance at drills and camp.

*MR. WYNDHAM : This question has been considered, and it has been found impossible to permit absence without forfeiture of pay or equivalent overtime, but, with these reservations, every effort is made to facilitate attendance at drills and camps.

GIBRALTAR BARRACKS.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the attention of the Commander-in-Chief has been drawn to the urgent necessity of remedying the sanitary conditions of the barracks and huts occupied by the troops stationed at Gibraltar ; whether he is aware that in consequence of the grants of leases to private persons of Crown lands in the city of Gibraltar there is a dearth of house accommodation at reasonable rents for officers and their families stationed there, and that the military medical officers have expressed an opinion that the congested condition and overcrowded state of the quarter occupied by the civil population is dangerous to the health of the troops ; and whether the Secretary of State, having regard to the public interest, will take steps in conjunction with the Colonial Office to prevent further encroachments by building speculators and syndicates upon the few remaining sites available for the erection of defence works, naval and military storehouses,

quarters for officers and dockyard officials, and recreation grounds for the troops.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The barracks at Gibraltar, though leaving much to desire, are not now insanitary. In the past five years some £26,000 has been spent on improving their sanitation. There is a scarcity of houses available for officers' quarters, and there is some overcrowding which is bad for the health of all the inhabitants, including the troops. All these points have been considered by the Committee on the condition of Gibraltar, and it has been decided that in future no Crown lands which may be required for any of the purposes stated in the question will be let on building leases.

ARMY ENLISTMENTS.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether his attention has been called to the case of Edward Knight, charged on 28th June at Worthing with an assault on a girl; that the evidence being insufficient to convict, the accused was discharged, but the Chairman stated that his character was bad, and that if the charge had been proved he would have been severely punished, and that the best thing he could do was to enlist in the Army; and, whether, in view of the necessity of attracting respectable young men to the ranks, the attention of the Lord Chancellor will be directed to this *obiter dictum* of the Chairman.

MR. WYNDHAM: Any remark such as that which the Chairman of the Worthing Bench is reported to have made when discharging Edward Knight, is, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, most reprehensible and injurious to the Army. It cannot be too clearly understood that the Army is not a penitentiary for bad characters, and the Secretary of State will consider what steps can be taken to induce magistrates to refrain from suggestions of so mischievous a nature.

RAILWAY COMPANIES AND THE VOLUNTEERS.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if the War Office has now succeeded in arranging with the several companies to convey Volunteer corps proceeding to camps of instruction upon Saturdays as heretofore, in order

that full advantage may be taken of their holiday for the national defence.

*MR. WYNDHAM: I am glad to be able to inform my hon. and gallant friend that satisfactory arrangements have been made with all the railway companies concerned for the conveyance of Volunteers to camps on Saturday the 5th August next. I hope that this arrangement will be continued in future years.

REGIMENTAL FACINGS.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether any regiments have yet applied for permission to resume their historical facings; and, if so, whether they have received the desired permission, and under what conditions.

MR. WYNDHAM: Three regiments only have applied for restoration of their old facings, the Northumberland Fusiliers, the Yorkshire Regiment, and the Seaforth Highlanders. In each case the application has been granted. As I stated to the House on the 2nd of March, this alteration will apply to the tunic only.

ARMY RECRUITING IN THE HIGHLANDS.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he will state the number of recruits for the Army obtained this year in the Highlands of Scotland, and the average number recruited there during the preceding five years.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The recruits obtained in the Highlands of Scotland during the first six months of the present year have been 566. The average number recruited yearly during the last five years has been 1,035.

WAR OFFICE REORGANISATION.

MR. YOXALL (Notts, W.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he is able to give an assurance that the Committee on War Office Reorganisation, of which he is chairman, will consider the advisability of recommending that the claims of officers wounded in action and rendered unfit for military service, but not incapacitated from performing secretarial and administrative duties at the War Office, shall be favourably considered for appointment to the clerical staff in the Adjutant General's Department, Quartermaster General's

Department, and Ordnance Department on vacancies occurring in those departments.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Officers who have been wounded in action, and whom it is possible to retain on the active list, have from time to time been employed at headquarters upon such duties as they are competent to perform, but the Secretary of State is unable to give an undertaking that such officers will be employed in large numbers at the War Office.

SPECIAL SERVICE OFFICERS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the paragraph in *The Times* of 5th July, with regard to military preparations for South Africa, and the despatch of special service officers, was communicated to other newspapers as well as to *The Times*, and if so to which; and whether the officers despatched to organise residents and local forces will act independently of the Ministers of any self-governing Colonies in which the said residents and local forces may be.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to the first question is in the negative. The officers selected for special service in South Africa will report themselves to, and act under the orders of, the general officer commanding Her Majesty's forces in that country. Their position in relation to the civil authorities of the colonies concerned will not differ from that of other officers already serving in the same command.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Can the hon. Gentleman state on what principle the information was given to *The Times* newspaper and not to other papers?

*MR. WYNDHAM: I have no idea. I suppose they asked for it.

MR. DILLON: I do not think that is a sufficient answer. I do not think the hon. Gentleman has answered my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): It is the Pigott relationship.

EXPANDING BULLETS.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for

Mr. Foxall.

War whether the Mark IV. missile is affected by temperature in its initial action, and is liable to develop an abnormal pressure and to detonation within the barrel, instead of exploding; and, if so, whether he will consider the propriety of not supplying this ammunition for Volunteer rifle competitions in hot weather. I beg also to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the Mark IV. missile had to be replaced by another bullet at the Bisley shooting on Tuesday owing to the danger which was involved in the use of this newly adopted service cartridge by the Volunteer marksmen; and whether he can see his way to place samples of the missile in question in the Tea Room for the inspection of Members of this House. I beg further to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he will institute an inquiry into the alleged bad behaviour of the Mark IV. missile at the Bisley rifle ranges, and particularly into the statements that such a cartridge would be most dangerous for those using it in tropical regions; and whether the War Department will reconsider its action in supplying this bullet to the troops now serving in South Africa.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Perhaps the hon. Member will allow me to answer his three questions at the same time. The Mark IV. ammunition was used by several battalions of British troops at Omdurman, and was reported on favourably. There is, therefore, no reason to believe that the bullet is affected by temperature in its initial action, or that the cordite charge is liable to detonate. A report has been called for on the accidents which occurred at Bisley, and in the meantime other ammunition has been supplied to the Volunteers. This bullet has been proved by the firing of many thousands of rounds at Woolwich, and will continue to be issued unless the present inquiry should reveal some unsuspected defect. I shall be happy to place some of these bullets in the Tea Room.

MR. DILLON: Is it a fact, as stated in *The Times*, that the bullet which is intended to expand only on striking has shown an inconvenient tendency to expand before leaving the rifle?

*MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member had better wait for the report of the inquiry.

GUNS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether thirty machine gun carriages were despatched yesterday for shipment at Southampton for South Africa; and whether Mark IV. bullets, which expand on impact, are to be used with these machine guns.

MR. WYNDHAM: No machine gun carriages were sent to South Africa yesterday. If any machine guns should be sent to South Africa, Mark IV. ammunition would be sent with them.

TROOPS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether another battery of Royal Field Artillery has been selected for service in the Cape; and whether this is the fifth battery now under orders for the Cape.

MR. WYNDHAM: Three batteries are under orders to proceed to South Africa, viz., 18th, 62nd, and 75th.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Arising out of that answer, may I ask whether the hon. Gentleman purposes to answer all questions with regard to the movement of troops, in view of the fact that such questions may possibly be asked in the interests of the enemies of the country?

(No answer was given.)

COOPER'S HILL ENGINEERS.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has arrived at any conclusion upon the case of the senior Cooper's Hill Engineers, which some few months ago he stated was under consideration by the Government; and whether their complaint that their careers had been ruined by the terms of their engagement being broken, and that they are reduced towards the close of their service into a position of great anxiety and distress, can in any way be met and alleviated; and whether he will lay upon the Table, and cause to be circulated, the Government of India's despatch, No. 15, Public Works, dated 28th January, 1890, containing that Government's views upon the whole question; also copy of a Minute by Sir George Chesney written in January, 1890 (referred to in that despatch), and its enclosures.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex,

Ealing): I stated on the 15th of June in this House that a despatch conveying my decision on this subject was then on its way to India. Since then it has, no doubt, been received and acted upon in the manner which I described. A motion for the publication of the correspondence referred to in the question was put down in 1895, but my predecessor declined to agree to it, and I see no reason for departing from that decision.

BALKAN REFORMS.

MR. STEVENSON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps have been taken by Her Majesty's Government to urge upon the Signatory Powers to the Treaty of Berlin the necessity for executing the reforms in the Balkan provinces of the Ottoman Empire, in accordance with Article 23 of that Treaty; and whether, in view of the reports recently received from Macedonia, the Secretary of State will consider the desirability of inviting the Ambassadors of the Great Powers at Constantinople to re-examine the proposals made by the noble Lord now Member for Cricklade and the other European Commissioners in their memorandum of the 23rd of August 1880, on the introduction of administrative reforms into European Turkey.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has joined the representatives of other Powers on several occasions in urging the introduction of reforms in the Balkan provinces, but it is not considered that such action as is suggested would in present circumstances be opportune.

TRADE IN NIGERIA.

MR. J. E. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, what have been the figures of trade (imports and exports separately) for each of the ten years 1889 to 1898 between the United Kingdom and the territory administered by the Niger Company; whether any expense has been borne by the Imperial Exchequer in relation to that Protectorate since the grant of the charter; and in that case what has been the total sum so charged and for what purpose.

*MR. BRODRICK : I am informed by the Niger Company that no separate account of trade as between the United Kingdom and Nigeria has been kept. A certain portion of the Nigeria trade is with the Continent. No expense whatever has been borne by the Imperial Exchequer in relation to the Protectorate since the grant of the charter.

JAPANESE LABOUR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

MR. DAVITT : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any remonstrance has been addressed to the Colonial Office by the Government of British Columbia, or any of its citizens, against the vetoing of the Provincial Act which prohibited the employment of cheap Japanese labour in the mines of the colony ; whether the labour party of the colony has protested against this interference with the legislative privileges of the people of British Columbia, on the ground that the action of the Dominion Legislature has been influenced by the capitalists of the colony, whose interests favour the employment of cheap Asiatic labour in the mines ; and whether he is aware that the labour organisations of Canada are in active sympathy with the views of similar bodies in British Columbia, and demand that some adequate safeguard shall be provided for the protection of Canadian labour throughout the whole of the Dominion against the influx of cheap labour from the East, which it is alleged this vetoing of the Act of prohibition will precipitate to the injury of the white workers of all the Canadian provinces.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The answer to all three questions is in the negative. I have received no protests on the subject.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN NATAL.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will explain on what grounds, at the recent celebration of the Queen's Birthday in Natal, the children of natives of British Africa were forbidden by the authorities to view the festivities in company with the children of white people.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : I have no information on the subject.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN : The statement has been published in the papers.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government will lay before Parliament papers containing a full account of the Bloemfontein negotiations, and relative communications with the Governments of Cape Colony and Natal in regard to the position of affairs in the South African Republic.

MR. DILLON : I beg at the same time to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now see his way to lay upon the Table of the House the despatches from Sir A. Milner giving an account of the proceedings at the Bloemfontein Conference.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : The papers relating to the Bloemfontein negotiations will be given. As to the communications with the Cape and Natal Governments I will consider what papers can be given—I may have to consult the Colonial Governments.

MR. LABOUCHERE : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has formed an approximative estimate of the number of British-born white subjects of Her Majesty now domiciled in the Transvaal Republic ; and, if so, whether he will communicate it to the House.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : No census of the Transvaal has been taken since 1890. Sir J. de Wet estimated in 1894 that of a total Uitlander population of 70,000, 63,000 were British subjects. The total number of Uitlanders now in the Republic has been estimated roughly at 200,000, of which the same proportion as in Sir J. de Wet's estimate would be 159,000 British subjects.

MR. WHARTON (Yorkshire, West Riding, Ripon) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the law as to the education of children of English-speaking parents in the elementary schools in the Transvaal remains the same as described by wit-

nesses before the South African Committee, *i.e.*, that in elementary schools at Johannesburg and elsewhere education was only allowed to be given in the Dutch language, although it was admitted that there were plenty of competent English-speaking teachers available; and, whether the taxation of food and other necessities of life continues as onerous and stringent as reported by witnesses before the Committee, and whether any change has taken place with regard to such taxation.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The law remains unaltered. Under it the Superintendent of Education may make arrangements for the education of non-Dutch speaking children on the Gold-fields, and at present English is allowed to be the medium of instruction in the lowest standards, but more and more Dutch is required until Dutch becomes the only medium. The Uitlanders, being unable to avail themselves of the State-aided education, for which they have to pay, have voluntarily subscribed about £100,000 as a fund for providing education for English children on the Rand. I believe that the taxation on food and necessities, though some alterations have been made in the customs tariff, remains substantially the same.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether these taxes are above or below the same taxes in Cape Colony?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: If the hon. Gentleman will give notice of the question I will give him a reply.

DR. CLARK: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is the case that under the resolution of the Volksraad in 1896 five schools have been established on the Goldfields of the South African Republic; that of the fifteen teachers ten are English and five Dutch; and that the maximum time required to earn the highest grants in these schools is five hours per week for the senior scholars.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I understand that a few such schools have been established, but I am not in possession of details as to the staff and the hours. I believe that a condition attaching to the grant is that the children must pass an examination in South African history and

in the Dutch language. (See page 77 of C. 9345.)

DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ANALYSTS.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture how many appointments of district agricultural analysts under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1893, by county councils and councils of county boroughs respectively, have been approved by the Board of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): Appointments of district agricultural analysts have been approved for all administrative counties, with but two exceptions, and in fourteen county boroughs.

TITHE RENT CHARGE (RATES) BILL

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he will specify respectively the rates referred to in Clause 4 of the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill as rates which the owner of tithe-rent-charge is liable as compared with the occupier of buildings to be assessed to or to pay on the proportion of one-half and of less than one-half; and if he will name the enactments by which the rate is in each case imposed in the proportion mentioned.

*MR. LONG: The object of the exception in Clause 4 of the Bill is to exclude from relief those rates in respect of which owners of tithe rent-charge have already been placed by Statute in as good or better position than that in which they will be placed under the Bill. The most important rates which fall within this category are the general district rate in urban districts, and the special expenses rate in rural districts which are levied in conformity with Sections 211 and 230 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and rates levied for the expenses arising under the Lighting and Washing Act, 1833, in conformity with Section 33 of that Act, as extended by the Tithe Rating Act, 1851.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he will state the aggregate amount of the deduc-

tions which will be made under the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill from the sums now payable to the local authorities in Wales and Monmouthshire.

*MR. LONG : The aggregate amount of the shares of the counties and county boroughs in Wales and Monmouthshire in a sum of £87,000 distributed in the proportion of what are known as the "discontinued grants" would be £3,982.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he will state the amount which will be deducted from the sum payable to the County of Carmarthen out of the Local Taxation grant under the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill.

*MR. LONG : The share of the County of Carmarthen in a sum of £87,000 distributed in the proportion of what are known as the "discontinued grants" would amount to £277.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydfil) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he will consent to the motion for a Return relating to the amounts to be deducted in respect of the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill from the sums receivable by local authorities on account of the Estate Duty Grant, standing on to-day's Paper.

*MR. LONG : It would not be practicable to give the Return asked for without a detailed investigation of the circumstances as they at present exist in each parish in which tithe rent-charge is attached to a benefice, and even therefore if the value of such a Return were equivalent to the cost and labour of its preparation, which we do not think would be the case, it could not be made available until long after the Bill will, as we hope, have passed into law.

HANWELL BARRACK SCHOOL.

MR. HAZELL (Leicester) : I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to a proposal made by the managers of the Central London School District to spend about £250 in establishing a printing office at the large barrack schools at Hanwell ; and whether he will undertake to refuse to sanction such expenditure in accordance with his stated intention of not adding to the existing

Poor Law children's institutions, in compliance with the recommendations of the Poor Law Schools Committee.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford) : I have not received any proposal from the managers of the Central London School District on the subject referred to in the question. I understand that a proposal made by one of the managers to establish a printing press was referred to a committee, but that nothing more has been done in the matter.

STEEPLE MORDEN RECREATION GROUND.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) : I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the County Council of Cambridgeshire made an order on 11th May for acquiring four acres of land at Steeple Morden for a public recreation ground ; and whether, as the confirmation of the order has remained unopposed, the Local Government Board will issue at an early date an Order confirming the order of the County Council.

MR. CHAPLIN : The formal Order is in preparation and will very shortly be issued.

COLOURING OF FOODSTUFFS.

MR. HEDDERWICK : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he has recently promised or agreed to the appointment of a Committee to inquire into and report upon the colouring of margarine and the addition of preservatives to butter and milk.

MR. CHAPLIN : I have appointed a Committee to inquire into the use of preservatives and colouring matters in the preservation and colouring of food generally. My right hon. friend the Member for Wigtownshire has consented to act as Chairman, and the other members of the Committee will be Professor Thorpe, of the Government Laboratory, Dr. Bulstrode, one of the Medical Inspectors of the Local Government Board, and Dr. Tunnicliffe, of the Physiological Laboratory, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

MR. HEDDERWICK : Are we to understand that the Government intend to drop the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill this session ?

MR. CHAPLIN: Nothing of the kind.

FACTORY FUMES AT WESTMINSTER.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the increasing quantity of smoke and fumes that are emitted from the pottery and drain-pipe works on the river nearly opposite this House; whether he is aware that on Tuesday Lambeth Bridge was invisible in the afternoon from this cause, and that the Committee Rooms, the Terrace, and the dining-rooms were filled for hours with most unpleasant fumes; and whether he can take steps to require the owners of these works to consume their own smoke and not contaminate the neighbourhood with these fumes.

MR. CHAPLIN: The Local Government Board have no control over the owners of the works referred to in the question, but I have communicated with the Clerk to the Lambeth Vestry, in which parish the works are situated. I am informed that the Vestry have made and are still making daily observations with respect to the emission of smoke from the works of manufacturing firms in the parish, and particularly from the two leading pottery and drain-pipe works on the Albert Embankment, three inspectors having been specially told off for this purpose. Proceedings have already been taken in several cases, and convictions obtained in respect of the emission of black smoke. Several notices have been served upon the pottery and drain-pipe firms in question, and summonses will be issued whenever any nuisance under the Act can be substantiated. It is understood that large sums have been expended by the two pottery firms in altering their furnaces and appliances, so as to minimise the smoke and fumes arising in the course of their manufacturing processes, and they have expressed their willingness to make any further alterations of a practical nature if any such can be suggested.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—POSITION OF SIR HUGH OWEN.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the late permanent Secretary of that Board, who retired from the office on the 31st December last with a large pension, still retains the appoint-

ment of Receiver of the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund at a salary of £500 a year; and whether it is the intention of the Government that Sir Hugh Owen should continue to occupy the latter post for an indefinite period.

MR. CHAPLIN: The salary of the office in question is £400—not £500 a year. It is quite distinct from that of Secretary to the Local Government Board, and the salary is not paid out of Imperial funds. The office is still held by Sir Hugh Owen, and I see no reason whatever why he should not continue to retain it.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE—CHILDREN'S COUNTRY TRIPS.

MR. HAZELL: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether his attention has been called to the work of the Country Holidays' Fund, the Children's Fresh Air Mission, and similar organisations for sending children from London to country cottages for two or three weeks during the summer; whether he is aware that the number of children thus sent away annually is approximately 55,000, and is increasing, and that it is admitted on all hands that the benefit to the children, both physically and educationally, is very great; is he aware that the bulk of the children are sent away during the school holidays in order not to interfere with their school attendance, and that consequently there is constantly increasing difficulty in placing so many children with country cottagers during this short period; and whether, having regard to the immense advantages the children obtain, he will consider the possibility of this fortnight's visit being reckoned as school attendance on the ground of its educational value, or will in some other way propose a remedy for this difficulty.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University): The answer to paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 is in the affirmative. In reply to paragraph 4, it would be impracticable, in the opinion of the Committee of Council, to reckon these holiday visits as school attendance. But there is nothing to prevent the London School Board and the Voluntary school managers from making such arrangement that all the

elementary schools in London will not have their holidays at the same time.

RAILWAY COMPANIES' RUNNING POWERS.

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade when the Mansion House Association on Railway and Canal Traffic may expect to receive a reply to their letter to the Board of Trade with reference to the neglect of the railway companies to supply on their sectional maps information as to their running powers. I may add that the date of the letter was 11th May.

MR. LONG (for Mr. RITCHIE) : The Board of Trade have not lost sight of this matter, and as recently as the 3rd of July the Department received a letter from the Clearing House intimating that the subject was to be brought before a meeting of general managers on the 25th instant, and that after that date a further communication would be addressed to the Board.

INHABITED HOUSE DUTY.

MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) : I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether lodges in the country which are let to labourers are liable to Inhabited House Duty.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.) : The question is one of law, which can be authoritatively decided only by the courts ; but the opinion of the Board of Inland Revenue is that a lodge belonging to and occupied with a dwelling-house is chargeable with Inhabited House Duty under the Act 48 Geo. III., Cap. 55, Schedule B., Rule 2.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT—CASE OF MARY ANSELL.

MR. C. H. WILSON (Hull, W.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has given his sanction to the execution of Mary Ansell on the 19th July ; and will he state how many men and how many women have been executed in the years 1896, 1897, 1898 ; and in how many instances have memorials for mercy been refused.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) : As to the first paragraph, I must decline to answer any question in the House as

to the advice which it will be my duty to tender to Her Majesty. Thirty-five men and one woman were executed in the period referred to. In the great majority of these cases applications in some form for mercy were made.

SCOTTISH REFORMATORIES AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will consent to introduce the Bill which has been prepared for the transference of the control of Scottish reformatories and industrial schools to the Secretary for Scotland, on the distinct understanding that it shall not be proceeded with this session unless it can go through unopposed.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY : I am afraid that I cannot do this. There are several points of detail to be settled before the matter can be ready to be laid before Parliament.

TREATMENT OF YOUNG PRISONERS.

MR. J. G. TALBOT (Oxford University) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provision is intended to be made for young persons sentenced to detention in reformatory schools between their conviction and their reception into such schools, now that it will be no longer lawful to detain them in prison ; and whether he proposes to send any circular to the various Courts of Quarter and Petty Sessions on the subject.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY : The Reformatory Schools Amendment Act, to which, I suppose, my right hon. friend refers, provides merely that a juvenile offender shall not be sentenced to imprisonment in addition to being committed to a reformatory. There is nothing in this to interfere with the provisions of Section 2 of the Act of 1893, under which the offender can be sent for a short time to a prison, or any other place, until a fit school willing to receive him is found. I am about to issue a circular respecting the new Act.

BURIAL GROUNDS BILL.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Woodstock) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government intend to bring in a Bill during

the present session to give effect to the recommendations of the Select Committee on Burial Grounds, as contemplated by them on 9th February.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: No, Sir; I am afraid it will not be possible this session to bring in a Burials Bill.

BAIL REGULATIONS.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the observations of Mr. Justice Mathew at the Kent Assizes, in the case of the Queen against Ryle, in which the prisoner had been six months in prison awaiting her trial owing to the refusal of the committing magistrate to admit her to bail, as he thought he had no power to do so; and whether he will take the necessary steps to inform magistrates as to the powers they possess under recent legislation of admitting prisoners to bail.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have seen a newspaper report of the observations of the learned judge. I have no reason to suppose that magistrates generally are unaware of their powers with regard to bail, and no evidence to this effect has reached me with the exception of this one case.

STREET REGULATIONS—BARREL ORGANS.

MR. SOAMES (Norfolk, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the custom of attaching cradles with infants in them to barrel organs and piano organs in the streets of London; whether some time back instructions were given to the police to put a stop to this practice; and whether he will take steps to have those instructions carried out.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: My attention has not been recently drawn to this matter, but I will look into it.

HORSE AND CATTLE BREEDING IN SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, what encouragement has been given by the Congested Districts Board for Scotland to the breeding of horses and cattle in the congested area.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am in-

formed by the Congested Districts Board that they have made grants in aid of premiums for good stallions, and have supplied bulls in approved cases.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS IN SCOTLAND.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the fact that under Section 5 of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Act, the board may accept gifts of property for any of the purposes provided by the Act, will he state whether any Highland landlords have yet made gifts of land to the board.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The answer is in the negative.

PEDDIESTON PUBLIC SCHOOL.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the material required for conducting water to the Peddleston Public School and the farm towns of Ardivall and Muirton (Black Isle), Ross-shire, has yet been delivered; and can he state when the pipes will be laid and the work completed.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am unable to add anything to the answer I gave on the 27th of last month to the hon. Member.

GLASGOW POLICE AND PAUPER PATIENTS.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the attention of the Scottish Local Government Board has been called to the change of practice recently introduced in Glasgow in dealing with cases of debility and injury brought to the police offices and subsequently removed to the parochial hospital, whereby pauper patients are removed to that hospital without any certificate from the parochial medical officer of their fitness for removal; whether the criminal authorities have sanctioned the inspection of the private police books by the parochial officers; whether the removal of a moribund person on the data contained in these books, and without certificate from the parochial medical officer, would be held to satisfy the requirements of the Poor Law Act; and on whom, in case of mishap occurring in connection with a removal so conducted, would legal responsibility rest.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The answer to the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question is in the negative.

From inquiries made by myself through other channels, I find that some changes have been recently made in Glasgow in connection with removal. In the meantime, I have communicated with the Local Government Board in order that inquiries may be made; and if the hon. Member will repeat his question after an adequate interval, I shall be happy to reply on the subject.

SCOTTISH CROFTERS' HOLDINGS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the large farm, referred to in paragraph 6, page 10, of the Report of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland has yet been secured for the purpose of creating holdings for crofters and cottars.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that as the farm referred to is not out of lease until 1902 they have not yet secured it.

VACCINATION PROSECUTIONS IN SCOTLAND.

MR. COLVILLE (Lanark, N.E.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the Parish Council of Bothwell have recently prosecuted two gentlemen for the non-vaccination of their children; and whether the Government intend to amend the Law so as to afford the same relief for the conscientious objector in Scotland which has just been provided by statute for similar objectors to vaccination in England.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The fact stated in the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question is, I am informed by the Local Government Board, correct. The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative.

SCOTTISH COUNTY AUTHORITIES AND CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the statement on page 6 of the Report of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland that difficulties have arisen owing to the divided nature of the responsibilities of the County Local Authorities and the consulting engineer, will he state whether those difficulties have been overcome; and, if so, in what way.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The statement to which the hon. Member

refers was not made in the report, but in a note by the Under Secretary for Scotland, drawn up for the information of the Congested Districts Board. It applied to cases of works subsidised out of the Vote for West Highland and Island Works, but as that Vote ceased on the 31st March, 1898, there seems no object now in reopening these discussions. They were all arranged excepting the case of the Port Ness Harbour, about which the hon. Member was lately informed.

SPINNING AND WEAVING IN THE HIGHLANDS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state what efforts have been made to encourage spinning and weaving in the congested area of the Highlands of Scotland since the Congested Districts Board published their Report?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that the instructor referred to in the Report has been for some time at work under the local committee.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether any steps have been taken with a view to enforce the liability of the guarantors of Mr. Bussy in regard to the non-delivery of the issues of *The Parliamentary Debates* to those who have prepaid for their delivery during the present session.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. HANBURY, Preston): I am advised that the guarantors are not liable in this case. Their liability applied where the Government itself suffered by the action of the contractor, or where he broke any portion of the contract. The arrangements for repayment were no part of the contract.

MR. ERNEST SPENCER (West Bromwich): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, having regard to the fact that Members can now by means of a single order receive *The Parliamentary Debates* from 24th April to the present date, he will give instructions for the privilege, viz., by means of a single order, to be extended to the commencement of the session, as Members have in many cases either used or mislaid the necessary

Pink Papers, they having been issued to them months ago.

*MR. HANBURY: Apart from the fact that the proposal of my hon. friend goes beyond the arrangement agreed upon, I find that there are practically no sets of back numbers available beyond those already purchased by the Stationery Office to secure copies for subscribers who had paid in advance.

THE LICENSING COMMISSION'S REPORT.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury when the Report of the Royal Commission on Licensing, from which copious extracts have already appeared in the Press, will be in the hands of Members.

MR. HANBURY: It will be ready for delivery on Tuesday next.

FAIR RENTS IN COUNTY TYRONE.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has observed that in the case of Patrick MacNeill, Pink Schedule dated 16th February, 1899, 15 per cent. is added to the rent for proximity to Moy, County Tyrone; and in the case of A. M'Kenzie, Pink Schedule dated 19th July, 1898, no percentage is added for proximity to Moy, although both farms are equi-distant from the town of Moy, which has less than 1,000 inhabitants; and whether he can explain this difference of procedure in fixing fair rents.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds Central): The question refers to matters which came before the Sub-Commissioners judicially, and the Land Commissioners decline to require the Sub-Commissioners to explain the grounds of their judicial decisions. The parties, if they feel aggrieved, have the right to require the cases to be reheard on appeal before the Land Commissioners, and in one of the two cases referred to I understand that notice of rehearing has been served by both landlord and tenant.

RENT APPEALS IN WATERFORD UNION.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland when it is proposed to hold meetings of the Sub-Land Com-

missioners and of the Chief Commission in Waterford for hearing of cases in the Waterford Union.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: No sittings of either the Chief or Sub-Commission for the disposal of cases from the district mentioned have, as yet, been arranged for. Sittings will be fixed at as early a date as possible, having due regard to the claims of other districts. There are only twenty-six cases from this district in which appeals are pending, and only eighty cases awaiting hearing before the Sub-Commission.

BELFAST WHARVES.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received further information regarding the unsafe and dangerous condition of the Belfast wharves; and if he can now see his way to address a remonstrance to the Harbour Commissioners on the subject.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Further information has been furnished to me by the hon. Member relative to deaths from drowning in the docks at Belfast, which have occurred since I replied to questions previously put to me on the same subject last year. With regard to the second paragraph, the Government have already been in communication with the Harbour Commissioners of Belfast as to the alleged unprotected state of the docks, and have been informed by the Commissioners that they have, in all places, erected protection railings or walls where they considered such could be done without materially obstructing the trade and traffic of the port. The docks and quays in the harbour have, I am assured, been constructed by the Commissioners in strict accordance with Parliamentary authority, and if that is so, they are not liable, in the absence of negligent user, for any accidents that may occur.

SOUTH KILKENNY LAND SUB-COMMISSION.

MR. MORRIS (Kilkenny, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that no Land Sub-Commission sat at Waterford for the South Kilkenny district since October, 1898; and where will a Sub-Commission sit at Waterford.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : The fact is as stated in the first paragraph. A sitting of the Sub-Commission at Waterford will be arranged at as early a date as possible, having due regard to the claims of other districts. There are only fifty two cases awaiting hearing from this district at present.

URLINGFORD UNION DISPENSARY DISTRICTS.

MR. M'DERMOTT (Kilkenny, N.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the unanimous resolution of the Urlingford (county Kilkenny) Board of Guardians, to the effect that no rearrangement of the dispensary districts of the union involving the abolition of any one of them could be made that would not inflict great hardships on the sick poor in many districts of the union ; and, whether he will have personal investigation made into the matter, with a view to the withdrawal of the recent sealed order and the replacing of the dispensary districts in their former positions.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : My attention has been drawn to the resolution referred to in the first paragraph. I have given this matter my own personal consideration, but see no sufficient reason to alter the decision which has already been arrived at after careful investigation by the Medical Inspector of the Local Government Board in respect to the re-arrangement of the dispensary districts. The Board do not consider that the re-arrangement of these districts will inflict any serious hardship on the sick poor ; they believe, on the contrary, that the new arrangements will conduce to a better attendance on them.

IRISH OFFICIAL ASSIGNEES.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER : I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to Rule 250 of the proposed Rules of the Supreme Court (Ireland) 1899, now lying upon the Table of the House, referring to the qualification of official assignees for acting as liquidators in the winding-up of public companies ; whether he is aware that a similar arrangement to that now proposed was brought forward in 1893, and was abandoned in deference to the strong protests of the Chambers of Commerce of Dublin, Belfast, and Cork, and

other representatives of Irish traders ; and whether, in view of the fact that the mercantile community in Ireland is still strongly opposed to the contemplated change, he will refuse to sanction the rule in question.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) : The rules referred to in the first paragraph of the question have not been laid on the Table of the House, nor is it necessary that they should be so laid, at present. They are now draft rules, and were so published in the *Dublin Gazette*, with a notice under the Rules Publication Act, stating where copies could be obtained, and that representations and suggestions made in writing by any public body interested would be taken into consideration before the rules would be finally settled. I am not aware of the circumstances under which the Bill of 1893 was not proceeded with, but assume, from the terms of the question, it was because of some opposition. I cannot admit that the mercantile community in Ireland is opposed to the rule as now drafted by the rule recommending authority, which includes all the Judges of the High Court in Ireland ; but any public body which is now opposed to them can send in objections, which will be duly considered before the final settlement of the rules. I have not the power suggested in the last paragraph of the question, and I have to remind my hon. friend that the Rules in their final shape must be laid before Parliament, and may on Address be annulled.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

MR. J. E. ELLIS : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will fix the Third Reading of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill after it has been reprinted and at such a time as will afford opportunity for discussion on the Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) : I understand that there are not many gentlemen who desire to take part in the discussion on the Third Reading of the Bill, but I will endeavour to bring it on at such a time as he suggests.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

MR. PROVAND (Glasgow, Blackfriars) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the

Treasury, whether, having regard to the highly contentious character of the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, and the strong objections expressed to several of its clauses by chambers of commerce and by large numbers of manufacturers and traders, he will consent to postpone the Bill until next session.

The following questions also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, S. Molton): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can state when the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill will be taken.

Sir JOHN LENG: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill will be further proceeded with this session; and, if so, when.

Dr. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, N.).—To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government have decided not to proceed further with the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, but intend to refer it for further examination and inquiry to a Departmental Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There are a good many questions on the Paper in reference to this Bill, and I have to say that I propose to take the Report stage on Monday next. I do not wholly agree with the statement of fact made in the last part of the question of the hon. Member for the Blackfriars Division.

THE MONEY-LENDING BILL.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he has received a memorial signed by a large number of Members on both sides of the House asking the Government, in view of the great benefit which the Money-Lending Bill would confer on the poorer industrial classes of the community, to pass the said Bill this session; and whether he can see his way to meeting the wishes of the memorialists.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have received the memorial to which my hon. friend refers, but I cannot hold out any very sanguine hopes as to the prospect of carrying the Bill this session. Perhaps my hon. friend will wait for a final answer until Monday.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now make a statement as to the further legislative business of the session?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope to make the statement next Monday.

LEA BRIDGE DISTRICT GAS BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 15) (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed [No. 277].

Bill, as amended, to be considered Tomorrow, and to be printed [Bill 268].

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

BIRMINGHAM CORPORATION BILL.

MIDLAND AND SOUTH WESTERN JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL.

LINCOLN AND EAST COAST RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL.

WOKING WATER AND GAS BILL.

LOWESTOFT PROMENADE PIER BILL.

With Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, entitled “An Act to amend the Law relating to Youthful Offenders and for other purposes connected therewith.” [Youthful Offenders Bill [Lords].

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

THOMAS WRIGHTSON, Esq., for St. Pancras (East Division).

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put, “That the proceedings on the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill, if under discussion at Twelve o’clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order Sittings of the House.”—(Mr. Balfour.)

The House divided:—Ayes, 247; Noes, 148. (Division List, No. 249.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Baillie, Jas. E. B. (Inverness)
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Rt.HnA HSmith-(Hunts)
 Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
 Beach, Rt.Hn. SirM. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)
 Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Beresford, Lord Charles
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-Boulnois, Edmund
 Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Brown, Alexander H.
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Campbell, Rt.HnJ. A. (Glasgow)
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
 Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
 Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Elliot, Hon. A. R. Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailynn Edw. Fergusson, Rt.Hn SirJ. (Manc'r)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt.HnG. J. (St George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'ry)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gunter, Colonel
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampst'd)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kenyon, James
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, L'eat.-General
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. W. E. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
 Llewellyn, Sir D. (Swansea)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Everingham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lubbock, Right Hon. Sir J.
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclean, James Mackenzie
 M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett C. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. J. (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'ths.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs. Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'dl.)
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. T.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molynieux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
 Scole, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)

Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tolle machen, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Usborne, Thomas

Valentia, Viscount
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wrightson, Thomas

Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Blake, Edward
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-shire)
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Courtney, Rt. Hn. Leonard H.
 Crombie, John William
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davit, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charlee M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Ellis, John Edward
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourlay, Sir Edward Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton

Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Ed.
 Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nssea)
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 MacAfee, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Queen's C.)
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Lauren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mellor, Rt. Hn. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Molloy, Bernard Charles
 Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morley, C. (Breconshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
 Morris, Samuel
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 Oldroyd, Mark

O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, G. Wm. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.).
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lanc. S. W.)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfars.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Thomas, Alf. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carv. ll (Notts.)
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson, Hy. J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Gavan)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf.)
 Woods, Samuel
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Munro Ferguson and
 Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 2 :—

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydfil): On a point of order I desire to ask your

ruling. My point is that this Bill does not comply with Standing Orders, and therefore I submit it ought not to be proceeded with. There can be no manner of doubt that it does not comply with the Standing Orders, and if we have such orders surely we ought to abide by them.

I rely on Standing Order No. 45, which lays down very definitely that the precise duration of every temporary law shall be expressed in a distinct clause at the end of the Bill. Now this is certainly a Bill of a temporary nature, yet its precise duration is dealt with at the end of a clause which includes many other points. I know there is a precedent, and it is an unfortunate one—the Agricultural Rating Act, 1896.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not wish to express any opinion on this question, but it cannot be raised now.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Later on, then?

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Member presses for a decision I must tell him that I think the fact that the Bill has been read a second time has overcome any informality. The point should have been raised on the Second Reading.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: But a Standing Order is a Standing Order.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The objection should have been taken when the Speaker was in the Chair. The question cannot be raised now.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Shall I be in order in raising it on Clause 4?

*THE CHAIRMAN: We had better proceed with the second clause.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: At any rate, I will propose an Amendment.

*THE CHAIRMAN: As regards the Amendment of the Member for Lichfield, it appears to me to be a pure matter of form, and to have no substance in it.

MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): My reason for putting down the Amendment is this—that the ingenuity of some lawyer might nullify the real object of the clause, and therefore if you put in some unnecessary words you may enable a lawyer to do something which is not contemplated by this House. I beg to move this Amendment. I do not think there is any harm in leaving out these words. I do not suppose that the Minister for Agriculture will approve of it, but I think the

Amendment ought to be considered by the House.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 13, to leave out 'unless the context otherwise requires.'"—(Mr. Warner.)

Question proposed—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): These words are in the ordinary common form, and I hope the hon. Member will not persist in the Amendment.

MR. LAMBERT (Devon, South Molton): It seems to me that these words should not be inserted. We are not all blessed with a legal education like the Solicitor-General. I contend that a Bill ought to be so drafted that the context should not be required to express its meaning. I am one of those who have often complained of Acts of Parliament being badly drafted, and I have sometimes difficulty in understanding them. Nor am I the only one in that position; for the principal duty of the lawyers is to argue with one another as to the meaning of Acts of Parliament. On the ground of simplicity of drafting, and for the benefit of people outside legal circles, I think the words should be left out.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: They can do no harm.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH (Anglesey): This Bill is much more important than that one of its provisions should be justified on the ground that "it will do no harm." I hope the Bill is going to do some good and not harm.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I sympathise with the Solicitor-General in the line he has taken in saying that these words are in "common form," and that there is no reason against their being in the Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. LAMBERT: The next Amendment on the Paper, which is in my name, is, in page 1, line 13, after "requires" to insert—

"The expression of 'conforming owner' shall mean owner who acts in strict confor-

mity with the doctrines and principles of the Reformed Church of England."

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member knows that the Amendment which he had on the Paper the first day the Bill was in Committee was ruled out of order, and that this similar Amendment cannot possibly be in order.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Yesterday afternoon the First Lord of the Treasury, answering a speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth, said it was an extraordinary proposition to say that Scotland and Ireland had anything to do with this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman's meaning was perfectly plain—namely, that it would be from Ireland and Scotland that would come some of the money at least required by the Bill. When I listened to the right hon. the First Lord it occurred to me whether it was not possible that Scotland and Ireland were not even directly interested in this Bill, and that it was the duty of the representatives of Scottish and Irish constituencies to see that this Bill was limited entirely to England, and that it should by no possibility be applied to Scotland and Ireland. In looking over the Bill—and I believe that this Bill has been more closely scrutinised than any other during this session—I was surprised to find that there is not within its four corners one single word which expressly and specifically limits the application of the Bill to England. The object of the two Amendments which I have placed on the paper—both of which are in "common form" so much approved by the Solicitor-General, and therefore ought to commend themselves to him—is to make it perfectly plain that the Bill is limited to England only, and does not apply to Scotland or Ireland. The first Amendment I have put down is to define the Local Taxation Account mentioned in the Bill. I propose to add words in Sub-section 2 to the effect that "the expression 'The Local Taxation Account' shall have the same meaning as in the Local Government Act, 1888." Now, sir, I would first call the attention of the House to the Estate Duty Grant. The legal definition of the Estate Duty Grant is contained in the Finance Act of 1894, section 19, which is referred to in the Definition Clause proposed by the Government in this Bill. It says that in substitution for the grant of Probate Duties

under certain named Acts—no reference is made to the grant out of the Local Taxation Account, 1894—a new grant is to be made called the Estate Duty Grant, and that grant is specifically stated to be "one sum." I direct the attention of hon. Members to the fact that the grant we are dealing with is "one grant"; it is declared by the Act of Parliament to be "one sum," not three separate sums—one sum which is to be paid under the provisions of three separate Acts of Parliament. Now, it is quite true that the Local Government Act of 1888 creates and defines for the purposes of that Act, and not, so far as I am aware, for any other purpose whatever, a Local Taxation Account; and two other Acts of Parliament created two finance accounts, which were named "Local Taxation (Scotland) Account," and "Local Taxation (Ireland) Account," for the purposes of those Statutes respectively. There are, therefore, three Taxation Accounts, and what we want to make perfectly clear is, that the account from which the money is to come for the purposes of this Bill is the Local Taxation Account mentioned in the Local Government Act of 1888. That is a matter we are entitled to demand on the score of ordinary decencies of Parliamentary draftsmanship; on the score of its being ordinary "common form," to which the Solicitor-General attaches so much importance. This is not the first time the Government has dealt with the Local Taxation Account. In the year 1896 they passed an Act—the Agricultural Rates Act—in which they dealt with the Local Taxation Account, although that Act was clearly and expressly limited to England—while this Act is not limited to England by any single word—by an express provision in the Act itself and in the title of the Act, in accordance with loyalty to "common form" to which the Solicitor-General professes so much attachment. The Government proposed, in the definition clause in the Act of 1896, that the expression "Local Taxation Account" should have the same meaning as in the Local Government Act of 1888. That is the very Amendment that I want to move in this Bill—that the expression "Local Taxation Account" should have the same meaning in this Bill as in the Local Government Act of 1888. I do this because I think it is perfectly necessary and proper to safeguard the other two Local Taxation Accounts,

particularly inasmuch as the fund granted by the Finance Act of 1894 is declared to be "one sum," although there are three separate charges upon it. I would like to say a word about my other Amendment, because it is related to this one. I think both are necessary, but possibly one would be sufficient. The second Amendment I want to move is to include in the Title Clause of the Bill, which runs thus at present :—"This Act may be cited as the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Act, 1889," the words "and shall extend to England only." If the President of the Board of Agriculture or the Solicitor-General will tell me that they will accept the second Amendment, it may not be necessary to proceed with the first; although, if they accept either, there will be no difficulty about accepting both. At all events, it appears to me absolutely necessary, and I trust that "common form" will induce them to assent to one or other or both of the Amendments of which I have given notice. I cannot see how they can do otherwise. There is nothing in either of the Amendments against the principle of the Bill or against the course taken by the Government on a precisely similar occasion.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 13, after the word 'requires,' to insert the words, '(a) The expression "the Local Taxation Account" shall have the same meaning as in the Local Government Act, 1888.'" — (*Mr. Edmund Robertson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I think I can satisfy my hon. and learned friend that both the Amendments are quite unnecessary, and that this Bill does not extend to Scotland or Ireland, but extends to England only. The Amendments are absolutely unnecessary, because there is no tithe rent-charge in Scotland; there are only teinds; and in Ireland there is now no tithe rent-charge attached to the benefice. So that in the very nature of things the Bill can only extend to England and Wales, and, therefore, the first Amendment is absolutely unnecessary, and will introduce words into the Bill which are not in the least necessary. The second Amendment is also not at all wanted. The Local Taxation Account is limited to England and Wales. If my hon. and

learned friend will refer to Sections 20 and 21 of the Local Government Act of 1888, he will see that "Local Taxation Account" is the proper statutory title for England and Wales. The statutory titles of the Scottish and Irish Accounts are the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account, and the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account. I think my hon. and learned friend will see that both of his Amendments are unnecessary.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): The Solicitor-General's explanation is the most extraordinary I have ever heard. Under the Bill the Commissioners of Inland Revenue are ordered out of the sums payable by them to the Local Taxation Account on account of the Estate Duty Grant to pay one-half of the rates as the tithe. It may be that tithes only exist in England, but the Local Taxation Accounts for Scotland and Ireland are bound to contribute unless a distinction is drawn between the accounts of the three countries. That is perfectly obvious on the face of it. The Solicitor-General is going against the authority of his own Government. If there is the smallest foundation for what he has said, the insertion of the distinction in the Agricultural Rating Act is perfectly senseless. It was seen perfectly plainly in 1896 that it was necessary to state that the fund to be charged was the Local Taxation Account within the meaning of the Local Government Act, 1888, and I would ask what objection there is now to make the thing clear? Let the Government say why they refuse to do now what they did in the case of the Act of 1896. I would like to hear from the Solicitor-General or the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill why they refuse to give protection to Scotland and Ireland in the case of this Bill. The Bill in its general terms is equally applicable to England, Scotland, or Ireland. It is an extraordinary thing that Unionists should not know that. I should have thought it was a part of their education to learn that. The Opposition know perfectly well why the Government refuse to give any reason for their action. It is because they are afraid to have the Bill discussed.

MR. LONG : The fact that the Government refuse to accept an Amendment does not prevent the Bill from being discussed. The right hon. Gentleman asked why the

Government did not do in this Bill what was done in the Act of 1896. The answer I give is this : I have the greatest respect for the right hon. Gentleman's opinion, but when it comes to a question of legal interpretation I prefer to take the advice of my hon. and learned friend the Solicitor-General. My hon. and learned friend holds that there was no necessity for any additional words, and the Government agree with him. I have taken the very best advice before adopting the phraseology in the Bill, and I am advised that "the Local Taxation Account" is the statutory description of the account limited to England and Wales. If unnecessary words were put into the Act of 1896, surely that is no reason why it should be done now. There is not the smallest doubt as to the fund out of which the money is to come, and, therefore, the Government decline to accept the Amendment.

*MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): As an Irish Member, I must certainly rise to support the Amendment of the hon. and learned Member for Dundee. I do not think it is fair to leave it open to question in a court of justice as to whether the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account might not be encroached upon for the purpose of this Bill. To my knowledge there have been several cases of the judges of the Court of Appeal differing as to the construction of what were considered in this House as very clear words. That being the case I must, on behalf and in protection of the Irish Local Taxation Fund, beg the House to pass this Amendment of the hon. and learned Member for Dundee. It is quite true that at present in Ireland there are no tithes attached to benefices, but tithes exist in Ireland as they always did, though they are now vested in a different body. But, as was pointed out by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth, the point is not whether tithe exists in Ireland ; the point is whether the money which is taken by this Bill for the relief of the English parsons could possibly be taken out of the Irish Fund. That is what I want to make perfectly clear. As has been said—and it was obvious to everyone in this House—an Act of Parliament *prima facie* applies to the three parts of the United Kingdom, and it requires express words to exclude Ireland or Scotland. The Local Taxation Account (Ireland) and the Local Taxation Account (Scotland) are

all part and parcel of the Local Taxation Account. There is nothing in the wording of the Local Taxation Account to exclude Ireland or Scotland. Why leave it open to doubt ? Is it for the mere purpose of procedure, or for the purpose of the carriage of this Bill through the House, in addition to all the powers of closure—closure of clauses and closure in every shape and form—that this Amendment is rejected ? It cannot possibly do any harm. It may prevent the possibility of a mistake, and I think the Irish Members would be wanting in their duty if they did not, as far as in them lay, support this Amendment to make it clear that the Irish funds shall not be encroached upon for the benefit of the clergy.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): What the Act of 1894 did was to substitute an entirely new procedure for that of 1888. In this case it is not a question from which of the Local Taxation Accounts this money is to be taken. What this Bill does is to take the money out of the precedent heap which is collected by the Exchequer before it is allocated to the Local Taxation Accounts at all. The sum which has to be passed is absolutely undetermined. It is true we have an estimate of £87,000, but that is a very uncertain estimate, and the whole amount is charged, not to the Local Taxation Account, but to the fund from which the three Local Taxation Accounts are fed. If that is so, it is very necessary to see that no part of that part of the Estate Duty which is devoted to the purposes of technical education is diverted from its proper channel by this Bill. If there is no desire to avoid discussion on this measure, this is a case for avoiding ambiguity. Let us not have a Bill which is going to lead to lawsuits on matters like this, upon which your profession is that you are doing right and justice. Why cannot the Government accept these simple words ? The reason they do not is not because they wish to avoid a discussion on the Report stage, because I do not think the Government would be paltry or mean enough to do such a thing as that. If I were in charge of a Bill, I should welcome anything that would make the Bill more certain in its operation, and I think in this case there is a very strong case made for the acceptance by the Government of this Amendment.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: The hon. Gentleman says that this money is to be taken out of the sums payable to the Local Taxation Account. Now, there are three Local Taxation Accounts—for England, Ireland, and Scotland. We say this money should be taken out of "The Local Taxation Account," and that affects England and Wales only. The hon. Gentleman has suggested that the matter might come into a court of law, but I do not see how it can possibly do so.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: The Commissioners of Inland Revenue take the course the law prescribes, and that is the course they will take. It not only can be brought into a court of law, but will be. The opposition of the right hon. Gentleman is the most extraordinary I ever heard; it is perfectly plain that the interest of the English ratepayer is that he shall contribute as little as possible, and of course Ireland and Scotland must contribute their share from some source or other.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: From what source?

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: Does the right hon. Gentleman say, where three people are required to pay, that one shall pay, but that he will not have a form by which the amount due from the other two should be collected? Here are three Statutory Accounts to pay for the endowment of the English clergy, and yet he says he will have no form by which to compel payment from two of them. I should say that outside the House of Commons the right hon. and learned Gentleman——

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I should say outside the House what I have said here.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: His learning and ingenuity would not fail him like this outside the House. I can understand why he was not anxious to speak upon this Bill. I agree with the hon. Member for King's Lynn that it is intended to pay this money out of the fund from which the Local Taxation Account is fed, and who can say what that money is? To say the least, that is a point that should be cleared up, and it would be very satisfactory if the Solicitor-General would explain to us

why he put into the Agricultural Rating Act that particular clause.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): I think it is desirable that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue should know where they are to get this money from. As this Bill, as I understood, was only to apply to England, I did not propose to interfere in this discussion; but now we have these very ambiguous words, I think some explanation is necessary. This ambiguity ought to be made clear. In the 22nd Clause of the Local Government Act the Commons were empowered to take four-fifths of one-half, and leave one-fifth undetermined, and that one-fifth was afterwards divided between Ireland and Scotland. But this is an interception of the money before it goes into any of these accounts. This amount is to be abstracted from the total sum, and a portion will have to be taken from the Irish and Scotch Local Taxation Accounts. It appears to me these are the facts of the case. If the words "Local Taxation Account" are to be retained, you should determine whether they refer to the Local Taxation Account created by the Local Government (England) Act, 1888. What we want is to make it perfectly clear that the Local Taxation Account mentioned is the account created by that Act. Otherwise, it would be possible to take the amount required out of the whole sum. Indeed, it looks to me that the Bill as it at present stands would compel you to take the amount out of the whole sum. The Amendment makes it clear that the money is to be taken from the sum payable under the 22nd Clause of the Local Government (England) Act, 1888; and, unless it is inserted, the money can be taken from the whole amount contributed to the three funds.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): I have scrupulously abstained from taking part in this Debate, for two reasons. Firstly, the Bill refers to the clergy of a different religion from my own, and I have no desire to interfere with the inner concerns of another creed. Up to this Amendment I had been under the impression that this Bill referred to England and to England alone. I have listened carefully to the discussion which has taken place, and I agree with the learned Serjeant on the Front Opposition Bench that the Bill in its present form is

calculated to involve Irishmen. I candidly confess that I approach any financial Bill in which Ireland may be involved with a certain amount of perhaps undue and exaggerated apprehension. Every Irishman, irrespective of political parties, and almost without exception, is strongly of opinion that our country is seriously overtaxed. That opinion is backed by the Report of a Royal Commission mainly consisting of Englishmen, and in face of that Report we are still without any serious attempt to relieve us of this injustice. With this feeling and knowledge, we approach every financial Bill with the suspicion, and even the conviction, in our minds that our country is in some way or other cheated. That may be an unfair, but it is a strong suspicion. The second reason why I object to the clause is that this Bill is, for a good or a bad reason, going to add to the endowment of the clergy of the Church of England. We have no Church in Ireland endowed by a single penny of public money, and the policy has been laid down by successive Acts of Parliament that religious equality should be established by an absolute refusal to endow any Church. In face of that we are now presented with a Bill, one of the effects of which may be to tax our people in Ireland, who are mainly of a different religion, for the purpose of endowing the great, wealthy Protestant establishment of this country. You are asking a nation entirely free from establishment to contribute to the endowment of a Church which is Protestant and English. That appears to me to be an intolerable position. The case of the Government is that our apprehension is not justified, and that Ireland cannot be taxed under this Bill. In questions of finance and in the interpretation of statutes I have no right whatever to press my own opinion. But I have listened to this Debate, and when I find the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, who passed this Act, and the hon. Member for King's Lynn, who was his most constant, persistent, and able critic, in absolute agreement regarding the interpretation of this statute, what am I to do? If the right hon. Gentleman and the hon. Member who differed in every other respect in regard to this Bill, agree as to its interpretation in this particular, I, as a humble layman, must come to the conclusion that their opinion is more likely to be sound than not. Under these

circumstances, a case is made out for doubt and ambiguity. All I can say is as a simple uninformed layman in financial matters that it appears to me that, if a certain amount is to be taken out of a common fund, each contributory to that fund is liable to pay a portion of that amount, and you cannot diminish the fund without diminishing the share of each member of it. Therefore, if you diminish this common fund by a contribution to the English Church, you thereby diminish that portion of the fund belonging to Ireland. All I am concerned to say is that either there is a case of ambiguity or there is not. Surely if there is not, Ireland ought to be relieved from the apprehension of being compelled to pay out of her poverty and Catholicity for the rich Protestant Church of England. Under these circumstances I hope the Government will see their way to accept this Amendment. As to the idea that you must pass this Bill in the exact words in which it was introduced in order to avoid another stage, my experience has always been that such attempts, like curses, come home to roost.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I cannot conceive any hon. Member, whether he be a friend or an opponent of the Bill, desiring that this money should to the slightest extent come from Scotch or Irish sources for the purpose of helping an arrangement with which neither Scotland nor Ireland has absolutely anything to do. It is perfectly clear from what has fallen from the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture and the Solicitor-General that there is distinct ambiguity with regard to this term in the Bill. It is perfectly true that a different form of words was adopted in 1896 from that we are now discussing, but still there is a possibility that some ambiguity may arise in future which may have to be decided at very great cost and after very considerable delay by a court of law. The position with regard to the fund at the disposal of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue may be compared to a great river which divides itself into three streams and forms a sort of delta. Eighty per cent. of the whole volume of water flows through one stream, 11 per cent. through another, and 9 per cent. through the third. What the supporters of this Bill desire to do is to intercept a certain portion of

this volume of water for the purpose of irrigating one portion of the delta. In order to intercept the water it is necessary to construct a dam, and the question is whether it is to be constructed at a point above or below where the river divides itself into three streams. Obviously, if the water is intercepted above the dam, there is a possibility of the other channels running drier than before. What we want to know is the precise point where the dam is to be constructed, and whether the right hon. Gentleman is prepared to adopt some form of Amendment which will render any ambiguity absolutely impossible, and which will show in the clearest and most explicit language that he intends that the water shall be intercepted not above but below the point where the river divides itself. Should the right hon. Gentleman refuse to permit an Amendment of this kind at this stage, whatever air of injured innocence he may assume, the country will come to the conclusion that the object of the right hon. Gentleman is to prevent the possibility of time being spent on the Report stage, during which some of these matters might be put before the House and the country with even greater clearness than is possible at the present stage.

MR. CARSON (Dublin University): I should like some information, before I make up my mind upon this point, as to whether any of the sums coming to the Local Taxation Account are sums of money coming from Ireland or Scotland. If not, I cannot see what need there is for these arguments at all. If none of this money comes from Ireland or Scotland, this proposal cannot possibly make any difference to either of those countries. I desire to be assured that none of this money is payable to the Local Taxation Account out of the probate duties from Ireland or from Scotland. I know that under the Act of 1888 there are separate accounts for Ireland and Scotland, and I always was under the impression that special provision was made for Scotch and Irish accounts, and if these are really separate accounts and no money comes to this fund either from Ireland or Scotland which is paid into the Local Taxation Account, I really do not see what we are arguing about.

Mr. Stevenson.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I am not sure that my right hon. friend was in the House when I referred to the section which deals with this question. The Local Taxation Account was established under the Local Government Act of 1888, which applies only to England and Wales. The 21st Section is the one which deals with the probate duty, to which the estate duty now corresponds. Under that section fourth-fifths of the probate duty has to be paid into the Bank of England to the Local Taxation Account, and that has to be done in the manner prescribed in the Act. That is the Local Taxation Account, and it is on that account that this Bill rests. The Probate Duties (Scotland and Ireland) Act was passed in 1888 also, and the first section of that Act provided for the opening of two perfectly separate and distinct accounts. I am much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for calling my attention to this matter, and it is perfectly clear that the Local Taxation Account relates to England, and to England alone. There are, therefore, three separate accounts. One is entitled the Local Taxation Account for England and Wales; the second is the Local Taxation (Scotland) Account for Scotland; and the third is the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account, which relates to Ireland. These two accounts for Scotland and Ireland are established under the Act of 1888, to which I have already referred. The matter is perfectly clear, and I have listened with very great surprise to the doubts expressed by the right hon. Gentleman opposite.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I should like to know what are the suits that are going on every day against the Crown and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. The Solicitor-General has just made a most extraordinary statement.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: The right hon. Gentleman must really forgive my interrupting him, but he is absolutely misinterpreting what I said. What I said was that the right hon. Gentleman cannot suggest that a court of law has authority to control the Crown in the conversion of the revenue. The court of law can decide as to whether different people should pay the revenue or not.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: This is a most extraordinary statement to come from

a Tory Solicitor-General, who, I believe, is probably a Liberal Unionist. But the right hon. Gentleman has not answered one question, which will really throw more light upon this matter than anything he has yet said. The right hon. Gentleman opposite was responsible for the drafting of the Agricultural Land Rating Act of 1896, and we all recollect how the Minister for Agriculture of that day was supported by him throughout all the discussions in this House.

MR. LONG : I was not concerned in that measure.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT : At any rate we all recollect the personal and active part which was taken by the Solicitor-General in that discussion. Now, his argument is that when you use the words "Local Taxation Account" there cannot be the smallest doubt that that means the English account and no other. If that be so, then why did the hon. and learned Gentleman put these words into the Act of 1896:

"The expression 'Local Taxation Account' has the same meaning as in the Local Government Act of 1888."

If it is so clear—and he has expressed his surprise that I should have entertained any doubt on the matter—what doubt was there in his mind which made it necessary for him to explain those words "Local Taxation Account," when he believes, as he has just stated, that they are absolutely unnecessary? I will tell the right hon. Gentleman why he put in those words. He put them in because he knew that there was an ambiguity about the phrase "Local Taxation Account."

SIR R. B. FINLAY : I had nothing whatever to do with the drafting of the Act of 1896, although, as the right hon. Gentleman has stated, I took an active part in the discussion. I had nothing whatever to do with the drafting of the measure, and in my opinion these words are unnecessary.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT : It is a very remarkable thing, because that Act was drafted by one of the ablest men, who is now, unfortunately, not in the service of the Government. But he was a man who would not be likely to put in any un-

necessary words. But whoever put in those words knew that, as there were three Local Taxation Accounts, to use the words "Local Taxation Account" was to use an ambiguous phrase. That was the reason why the words were inserted, for it was thought necessary and proper to clearly define the general phrase "Local Taxation Account" as meaning the Local Taxation Account mentioned in the Act of 1888, which was the English Local Taxation Account. That is the reading of the Bill. It is perfectly obvious that this question might be raised in a court of law, and it is specified in the Agricultural Rating Act. In this Act, however, you have given no definition of the words, and, therefore, it will follow the general rule that as there is not the limitation which was put into the Act of 1896 it falls into the ordinary rule, that of an Act of Parliament which applies to all the countries alike; and there being three Local Taxation Accounts, and as you have made no specification as to which account is meant, as you thought it necessary to do in the Act of 1896, I certainly think that it is a reasonable argument to raise at this stage, and I would again ask the Government to reconsider their decision. When the Government were dealing with the Agricultural Rating Act these words were defined; and why is it not necessary to define them in this case? Why should the Government object to insert at the end of this Act the words, "this Act shall not apply to Ireland and Scotland," which would make the matter quite clear? It would be idle to pretend that the House of Commons and the country do not know why it is that you do not do this. What is the use of having all this argument upon this subject, for it simply amounts to this, that you refuse to do in 1899 what you did in 1896.

MR. LONG : I rise not only for the purpose of answering the questions which have been put to me, but also to make an appeal to the House. It is idle and unnecessary for the right hon. Gentleman opposite to say that the Government are resisting this Amendment because they do not desire to have a Report stage. If I may say so, with great respect, I think it is unnecessary to meet a statement of that kind at all. Our position is precisely the same position in which the right hon. Gentleman himself has repeatedly been placed, and if he comes into office he may

find himself in that same position again. The Opposition hold that the words which have been proposed ought to be inserted. We hold, acting upon the best legal advice which we can command, that these words are superfluous and unnecessary. There is no mystery about this matter. The right hon. Gentleman asks why the definition was put in the Act of 1896 and is to be left out of the Act of 1899? I may say that in the original draft of the Bill those words were inserted, and they were afterwards taken out, but not for any evil or mysterious purpose. (Opposition cries of "What words?") Why, the words that it is now proposed to insert. There is absolutely nothing to conceal in this matter. The words were taken out of this Act because, as used in the Act of 1896, they were considered to be absolutely unnecessary and superfluous, and because it was thought that the words "Local Taxation Account" was a statutory and well-understood name of a fund which only applied to England; and, therefore, as this particular fund was not known by any other name, it was deemed unnecessary and undesirable to insert those words. There was no intention whatever of deceiving Parliament. The Ministers on this side of the House who are responsible, are satisfied that there is no necessity whatever for the insertion of those words, because the proposal, as it stands, conveys the necessary meaning; and because the Opposition take a different view we are accused of being unreasonable, and of desiring to avoid a Report stage simply because we will not allow hon. Gentlemen opposite to dictate to us what we shall do in regard to our own Bill. I think hon. Gentlemen opposite are really carrying their opposition to this Bill to a very unreasonable extent when they ask us to accept Amendments which are altogether unnecessary, and which the Opposition alone think are desirable. I do not think there is any reason for hon. Members to be alarmed at this proposal. My real object, however, in rising is that I desire to make an appeal to hon. Gentlemen opposite. We have a great many Amendments and new clauses still before us, and I have no doubt many hon. Members opposite desire to discuss them. I do, therefore, appeal to hon. Gentlemen opposite whether it is not now desirable that the Committee should be allowed to proceed at once to a Division upon this particular

point. Every argument, I think, for and against has been fully and ably stated. The Government, at any rate, are certainly unconvinced, and they cannot agree to the introduction of this Amendment merely because it is harmless. Under these circumstances I think we might fight the point out now in the Division Lobby.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: It appears to me that the confession contained in the speech which the right hon. Gentleman has just delivered has destroyed absolutely the only remnant of objection which one could possibly have to the insertion of these words. The right hon. Gentleman tells us now that these words were before him in the original draft. That is to say the distinguished draftsman upon whom reliance has always been placed by this House thought that these words were necessary.

MR. LONG: I beg the hon. Member's pardon, for the draftsman struck out the words himself.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: That is another confession. We shall get at the real history of these words by-and-by. I should like to know how the words came to be put in the draft at all if the draftsman himself took them out. I will go a step further and say that the great significance of this Debate is the stubborn resistance which the Government have offered to the words which were in the Bill originally, and which they have now confessed were harmless. I will not make any imputation as to the motive which induced them to offer this resistance, but I will go on and make a confession equally candid. I will admit, for my own part, that if the Government had not inserted those words in the Act of 1896, and if they had not defined these words in two previous Acts, I should not have thought it necessary to raise the question now; but when I find that in the Act of 1896 they thought it necessary to define the words by a special reference to a particular Act, and when four years afterwards they propose another Bill using the same words, but deliberately and for express purposes refuse to limit those words by inserting the same definition, there is certainly something very suspicious about the matter. The right hon. Gentleman him-

self now admits that this Amendment is not unreasonable.

MR. LONG: I admit nothing of the kind.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I understood the right hon. Gentleman to say that, but I will not press the matter an inch further. My object was to make it perfectly certain, according to the common forms followed by draftsmen who prepare the Bills for this House, that this Bill relates to England only. I told the right hon. Gentleman previously that if he would allow that common form to be added to the Bill applying it to England only, I should make no particular point about the Local Taxation Account, and I should be content with his declaration that the Act was to extend to England only. Reference has been made to Ireland. The Irish Tithe Rent-charge Bill is now before the House, the Attorney-General for Ireland being responsible for it. That is a Bill in which it is made perfectly clear in the title and in every clause that you are dealing with the Irish Tithe Rent-charge in Ireland only, and there is not the faintest doubt about it. The Irish Attorney-General does not hesitate to use the ordinary common form, for the title clause runs :

"This Bill may be cited as the Irish Tithe Rent-charge Bill, and shall extend to Ireland only."

I want corresponding words introduced into this Bill, and if the right hon. Gentleman will promise to accept a similar definition clause my objection to the vagueness of his proposal will be entirely removed, and I shall not even advise my friends to go to a Division. If the right hon. Gentleman does not do this I am afraid we shall have to put hon. members to the trouble of another Division.

MR. VICARY GIBBS (Hertfordshire, St. Albans): As a hearty supporter of this Bill, may I be allowed to make a suggestion to my right hon. friend in the interests of expedition? We have already spent about two hours upon this point, and if the right hon. Gentleman does not wish to accept these words himself I desire to ask him if he will agree that they shall be introduced in another place; or, at any rate, will he promise to use the influence of the Government in that

direction? It seems to me that that would meet the whole case. I do not myself agree that there is any real danger in this matter, and I merely rise in the hope that I may persuade my right hon. friend to get this difficulty out of the way.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I think the course of this discussion has shown quite clearly that even experts differ in their interpretation of these Statutes. But is there any wonder that we should be alarmed at this particular thing when we come to consider what will be the course of procedure in carrying out the enactments contained in the provisions of this Bill? The course of procedure will be that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue will be pressed, to use the words of the hon. Member for King's Lynn, to "create an interception," and this thing will all be settled behind the scenes, and it will be months, and perhaps even more than a year, after the money has all been paid away before we shall be able to find out in what proportion the distribution of the money has been made. It is not an extraordinary demand to make that this question should be put beyond the region of doubt and controversy, which it is quite easy to do. In their proposal the Government, instead of inserting a reference which would have left no possibility of doubt as to the course of procedure which was to be adopted by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, depart altogether from the precedent of previous Acts of Parliament. Therefore it is natural that we should be doubtful and a trifle nervous when we see this departure from the ordinary procedure in previous Acts, and it is ridiculous for the Minister in charge of the Bill and the Solicitor-General to laugh at the doubts which arise in our minds, and to endeavour to make out that there is no danger whatever. What we are afraid of is very simply stated. It may be that a court of law, after careful investigation, would decide this matter on the lines laid down by the Solicitor-General, but it may mean that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue may take a different view, and say that it was the meaning of the Statute that they should first of all take the Estate Duty Grant, which is made under that clause out of the £30,000 which is required by this Act, and then proceed to distribute that grant in the

parishes which are laid down in the provisions of the Act, and which may be applied to England, Scotland, and Ireland. We have had to suffer more than once in the past from friendly calculations of this kind; and in this case it would not be a too friendly calculation, for the money does not get into the Treasury at all. The whole discussion is just another illustration of the inconvenience and objectionable character of the new finance—this system of interceptions of the taxpayers' money on its way to the Treasury. It must lead to the greatest possible misunderstanding and difficulty. At all events, it is perfectly clear that there

is danger of an ambiguity and nothing that has been said by the Government affords any solid reason against the removal of that ambiguity by the insertion of the words of the Amendment.

MR. WALTER LONG rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 250; Noes, 173. (Division List, No. 250.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George	Charrington, Spencer	Goschen, RtHnG.J.(StGeorge'
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Chester, Viscount	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Arnold, Alfred	Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth	Goulding, Edward Alfred
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	Graham, Henry Robert
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Coddington, Sir William	Green, WalfordD(Wednesbury
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Greville, Hon. Ronald
Bailey, James (Walworth)	Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Gull, Sir Cameron
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness	Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole	Gunter, Colonel
Baird, John George Alexander	Compton, Lord Alwyne	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Balcarres, Lord	Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Baldwin, Alfred	Cornwallis, FiennesStanley W.	Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r	Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Ed. T. D.	Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds	Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge	Hanson, Sir Reginald
Banbury, Frederick George	Cripps, Charles Alfred	Hardy, Laurence
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Helder, Augustus
Barry, Rt Hn. A. H. S. (Hunts	Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)	Henderson, Alexander
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Winds'r	Cruddas, William Donaldson	Hermon-Hodge, RobertTrotter
Bartley, George C. T.	Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Curzon, Viscount	Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Hobhouse, Henry
Beach, Rt. Hn. SirM. H. (Brist'l	Davies, SirHoratioD.(Chatham	Holland, Hn. Lionel R. (Bow)
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants	Dickson-Poynier, Sir John P.	Hornby, Sir William Henry
Beckett, Ernest William	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon	Howard, Joseph
Beresford, Lord Charles	Dorington, Sir John Edward	Howell, William Tudor
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.	Doughty, George	Hozier, Hn. James H. Cecil
Biddulph, Michael	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Hubbard, Hn. Evelyn
Bigwood, James	Doxford, William Theodore	Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
Bill, Charles	Drucker, A.	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Bond, Edward	Dyke, Rt. Hn. SirWilliamHart	Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme	Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas	Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Fardell, Sir T. George	Kemp, George
Boulnois, Edmund	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward	Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
Bousfield, William Robert	Fergusson, Rt. Hn. SirJ. (Manc.	Kenyon, James
Brassey, Albert	Finch, George H.	Lafone, Alfred
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Fisher, William Hayes	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
Bullard, Sir Harry	Fison, Frederick William	Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry
Burdett-Coutts, W.	FitzWygram, General Sir F.	Leighton, Stanley
Butcher, John George	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)	Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset
Campbell, RtHn J. A. (Glasgow	Galloway, William Johnson	Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swan'a
Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward	Gedge, Sydney	Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire	Gibbs, Hn. A.G. H. (City of Lon.	Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)	Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liver'l)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Giles, Charles Tyrrell	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Gilliat, John Saunders	Lorne, Marquess of
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Lowe, Francis William
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.	Gorst, Rt. Hon. SirJohnEldon	Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry		Lubbock, Rt. Hn. Sir John

Mr. Dillon.

Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Maecartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclean, James Mackenzie
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edin. W.)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Buddulph
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'th)
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl

Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Priestley, Sir W Overend (Edin.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l)
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles

Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd U.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AVES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
 Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
 Atherton-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Ennott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Blake, Edward
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson
 Caouston, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crombie, John William
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry

Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Ellis, John Edward
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Halcane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred

Johnson-Ferguson, J. Edw.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lenty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Donnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn's C.)
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred
 Maden, John Henry
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morley, Chas. (Breconshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)

Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Captain Cecil W.
 Nuttall, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. C. (Cork)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, G. W. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs. SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Rockitt, Harold James
 Redmond, Jn. E. (Waterford)
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)

Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfar.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alf. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips

Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfield)
 Woods, Samuel
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur

Question put accordingly, “That those words be there inserted.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 174 ;
 Noes, 250. (Division List, No. 251.)

AYES.

Abraham, W. (Rhondda)
 Allan, W. (Gateshead)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. Henry
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, T. (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Blake, Edward
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir J. Tomlinson
 Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buchanan, T. Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir C. (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-Causton, Richard Knight
 Cauley, Frederick
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crombie, John William
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William

Ellis, John Edward
 Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir W.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt Hn. Charles Seale-Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hn Sir U.
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Kinloch, Sir J. G. Smyth
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David

Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. (Queen's Co.)
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe-Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nuttall, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs. SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)

Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighsh.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.

Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Southport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wills, Sir William Henry

Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull).
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.).
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J.H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (Huddersf.)
 Woods, Samuel
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
 Yoxall, James Henry

SELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur.

NOES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Baillie, J. E. B. (Inverness)
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith (Hunts)
 Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. B. (Hants)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Beresford, Lord Charles
 Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
 Biddulph, Michael
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonnor, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscowen, Arthur Griffith-Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles Willian
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry

Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cornwallis, Fienness Stanley W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Ferguson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goeschens, Rt. Hon. G. (St. George's)
 Goeschens, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Green, Walford (Wednesbury)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Haleeey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.

Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kimber, Henry
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Llewelyn, Sir Dilwyn (Sw'ns'a)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine-Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquis of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclean, James Mackenzie
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W.
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Millward, Colonel Victor

Monk, Charles James
 Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robt. Torrens
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkinson, R. (Lancs Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rentoul, James Alexander

Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbt. (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoan, Sir Edward Albert
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Uni.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Ed. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Jos. Powell. (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr Anstruther

*MR. J. H. ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name to leave out Sub-section (a). I do not feel that there is any reason whatever, after what has been said, why that sub-section should appear in the Bill at all. The meaning of the Estate Duty Grant is perfectly clear, and I do not think any object can be served by the insertion of the words contained in the sub-section. I therefore move that the sub-section be omitted.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 14, to leave out Sub-section (a).”—(Mr. J. H. Roberts.)

Question proposed, “That Sub-section (a) stand part of the clause.”

SIR R. B. FINLAY: The Government cannot accept the Amendment, because we regard the words as absolutely necessary

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon, etc.): I do not see that these words are necessary at all. There is only one Estate Duty Grant, and the Commissioners can, without the aid of any interpretation clause, see exactly what the meaning is.

MR. WARNER: I have a similar Amendment on the Paper, and I think,

therefore, I ought to state why I put it there. It seems to me that the simplest way would have been not to have a separate sub-section in the definition clause of the Bill, but simply to have said, “Given under Section 19 of the Finance Act, 1894” at the end of Clause I. It only makes the Bill more difficult for the layman to understand to retain the words as they stand now. I certainly do not see the necessity for this sub-section, and I shall certainly support my hon. friend’s Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

*MR. J. H. ROBERTS: The Amendment which I wish to move is to leave out from “curacies” in Clause 2, Section 2, page 1, line 18, to end of sub-section. The effect of my Amendment will be to withdraw from the operation of this Bill two or three distinct classes of benefices—first, parochial chapels; secondly, chapels or districts belonging, or reputed to belong, or annexed, or reputed to be annexed, to any church or chapel; and, thirdly, districts formed for ecclesiastical purposes by statute. I think there is by this time no doubt that whatever the attitude of the Government as to this Bill may be, the real reason for its introduction is the peculiar position of the clergy in regard to their incomes. It is on account of the smallness of their

incomes that this Bill has been introduced. That this Bill is only a temporary Bill—to last for two and a half years—is proof of that contention, and the reading of the evidence placed before the Royal Commission on the subject confirms that view in the most ample manner. I think I am therefore justified in laying down that this Bill is intended for the relief of those clergy in the country who depend entirely upon the proceeds of the tithe rent-charge, and my Amendment stands or falls upon that point, namely, whether they derive their income substantially from that source or not. I have taken the trouble to go through an interesting Return upon this subject which was furnished to this House in 1891. It gives full information as to the districts formed for ecclesiastical purposes during the years 1880 and 1890. I am not going to weary the Committee with statistics and figures from this Return, but I should like to point out that any hon. Member may find out for himself, if he studies this Return, that, so far as the majority of these districts are concerned, the tithe rent-charge assigned to them is of the smallest dimensions. When the income of the clergy from endowment is, on the average, from £300 to £500, and when the tithe rent-charge is only £10, £20, or £30, is it just or right that the same relief in regard to the rating should be applied? I further wish to call attention to one phrase in this section which seems to me to require some explanation from the right hon. Gentleman opposite. I should like to know what is the meaning of the phrase "and chapelries or districts belonging or reputed to belong, or annexed, or reputed to be annexed, to any church or chapel." It passes my comprehension to understand how it is desirable or necessary to introduce into a section of this kind words of that character.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, to leave out from the word 'curacies,' to the end of paragraph (b)."—
(*Mr. J. H. Roberts.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I hope the Committee will retain these words. The Amendment moved by the hon. Gentleman is really in substance an attempt to

undo a great part of what the Committee has already decided upon under the first clause—namely, that certain relief shall be given in the case of tithe rent-charge attached to benefices. The Amendment will, in fact, eviscerate that clause.

MR. ASQUITH (Fife, E.): Will the Solicitor-General explain the concluding words of the section, relating to benefices under the patronage of the Crown?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: These words are merely put in on the principle that an Act of Parliament does not apply to the Crown unless the Crown is expressly mentioned.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I rise for the purpose of drawing the attention of the Solicitor-General to the fact that he has not replied to the most important part of the case put forward by my hon. friend. I would especially draw his attention to the words "and districts formed for ecclesiastical purposes by virtue of statutory authority." The question was put earlier in this Debate to the Government whether the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were or were not to derive any benefit under this Bill. I remember the question being put very well, and I remember the answer given by the right hon. Gentleman. It was denied that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were to derive any benefit whatever under this Bill. What have the Ecclesiastical Commissioners been doing, and what are they doing continually? They are forming new districts for ecclesiastical purposes, and those districts are being formed by virtue of statutory authority. But what will happen in the future with regard to those districts? They will simply have a further endowment of 10 per cent. paid out of the funds of the nation, in addition to the endowment which they will get if they annex any tithe in their possession to the benefice. I daresay hon. Gentlemen opposite would like to have a further endowment of the Church of England in that particular way.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: Districts are, of course, formed in the way mentioned by the hon. Member, and they may remain districts for some time without becoming parishes. If they have tithes annexed to them and endowments derived from them, then it is proper that the benefits

of this provision should be extended to such cases.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.): I object to the words in question, because they will enable the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to attach a very large extent of tithe rent-charge to new districts, which they will undoubtedly form as soon as they possibly can.

MR. LAMBERT: I do not wish to detain the Committee for more than a moment, but there is in line 20 a phrase which is not quite clear to the lay mind. I would like to ask the meaning of the word "reputed" to belong. It is used in two distinct places—"Chapelries or districts belonging, or reputed to belong, or annexed or reputed to be annexed to any church or chapel." If a thing belongs to any church or chapel it does belong to it, but surely you need not bring in under this Bill any thing "reputed" to belong.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: A question might arise as to the precise extent of the Common Law right, and this is intended to make the matter quite clear.

MR. HUMPHREYS - OWEN (Montgomery): Can the right hon. Gentleman say what is the difference between "belonging to" and "annexed to"?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: "Belonging to" means that which was given to the benefice when it was formed, "annexed to" that which was given afterwards.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The interpretation put upon this clause by the Solicitor-General raises a very important point. It is to be extended to chapelries belonging to or reputed to belong to any church or chapel. A new district is formed and a chapel is endowed, that is, a certain sum is put aside for its use, and then comes the question as to how that money is going to be invested. The trustees come to the conclusion that they will invest the money in tithe rent-charge in the hands of the lay proprietor. The question is, is such a transaction within the Act? If it is, it raises a most important point. Suppose you purchase the tithe rent-charge 100 miles away; directly you do so that tithe rent-charge

is equal to a £50 endowment to the chapel, which is equivalent to adding £2,000 to the endowment. I should like to know if I am correct in my interpretation of the clause. Instead of the whole of the money being handed over to the church, it might be divided between the church and the lay proprietor. The lay proprietor might say, "You benefit to the extent of £50 a year, therefore I am going to put another £1,000 on to the price."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I doubt whether that question is relevant to the matter before the House, but I will answer it nevertheless. If a certain sum of money is invested for the endowment of an existing vicarage or of a new district, it is not subject to rates. The whole injustice is this, that, where a benefice is endowed with tithes, rates are charged. If you have £1,000 which you wish to give to a church and it is invested in Consols or some other stock, no rates are charged. Therefore nothing is gained by buying tithe rent-charge from the lay proprietor. The same value is obtained, only it did not become subject to rates. The amount obtained is not altered by changing the form of investment. I think the question has a very remote reference to the subject before us.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Then I understand the answer is in the affirmative.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: The hon. and learned Member understands that perfectly well.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am glad to have that admission. I think it raises a very important point. The hon. Gentleman does not challenge the argument I laid down, which is that a sum of money may be collected in Liverpool or Newcastle; if, instead of investing it in Consols, you invest it in tithes in a parish 300 miles away, you can arrange a deal with the lay proprietor by which you can give £3,000 for a thing only worth £2,000, and say, we do not mind giving you the £1,000 because we make £1,000, and the money after all will come out of the ratepayers. This is done under a Bill the object of which is right and justice. This measure will lend itself to transactions little short of fraudulent.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): If the Solicitor-General is correct, will not this Bill not only have the effect of relieving the clerical tithe-owners of half their rate, but increasing the value of tithes generally?

***THE CHAIRMAN**: I do not see how that arises on the question of the definition of the words proposed to be left out.

MR. LEWIS: I wish to put a specific instance which arises on the Amendment of my hon. friend. I have in my mind a parish with a chapelry endowed with £10,000 by the mother of the lay impropriator. I wish to know whether it is possible and how the Government proposes to meet a case in which by arrangement between the parties the lay tithe may be made free to the extent of one-half of the rates. The Government have admitted over and over again that the lay tithes have been omitted from the Bill because they could not, in justice, be included in it; but there are cases in which the lay tithe-owners will be largely benefited under this Bill, and nothing can be done to prevent it.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: I do not see that the case the hon. Gentleman refers to would be met by the omission of the words now before the Committee.

MR. LEWIS: If these words are omitted the specific transaction to which I referred would not be possible under the Bill. I want to know what guarantee there is that justice will be done by the action the Government are taking.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: The endowment to which the hon. Member referred can be made applicable to special curacies, which has already been passed.

MR. ASQUITH: Before you put the Question, Sir, I should like to know whether you rule that upon the Amendment of my hon. friend we are not entitled to discuss the effect which this definition clause will have if passed in its present shape on what I might call future annexations of tithe rent-charge, which do not at present exist. In my judgment it is a question of great importance, but I do not want to be out of order in discussing it.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: I think the matter has already been discussed. It was discussed on an Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Merthyr to insert the words "attached to," and it was admitted that "attached to" would cover future cases.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Upon a point of order, Sir, I moved the Amendment, but I never raised that point at all, Sir.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: It is perfectly true that the hon. Member did not raise the point, but other hon. Members did, and discussed it for a considerable period. The matter was fully gone into.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Would it not be in order to discuss the point in connection with the endowment of chapelries which are freshly endowed? I propose to confine myself to that point.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: The difficulty in the way of the hon. Member is that it was discussed in the previous Amendment to which I referred.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I do not understand you to rule, Sir, that it is absolutely out of order, though I quite see the difficulty; but it is really a most important point, and one upon which I desire to have your ruling particularly.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: In my opinion the case has been discussed and decided when the Committee decided that the words "attached to" should remain in the Bill. I do not think the question can be raised again on this Amendment.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: You have referred, Sir, to the Amendment I moved on Monday last, but I did not raise this point, and it does seem a little hard upon me that, because some discussion which was evidently out of order took place on that occasion, I should now be said to have raised the discussion.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: The hon. Member chose to raise the same point by moving his Amendment, and there was consider-

able discussion on the point If my recollection serves me correctly, there was a long discussion on it.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 228 ; Noes, 152. (Division List, No. 252.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George	Dorington, Sir John Edward	Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Doughty, George	Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swans'a Lockwood, Lieut. Col. A. R.
Arnold, Alfred	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Doxford, William Theodore	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Drucker, A.	Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness	Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas	Lorne, Marquess of
Balcarres, Lord	Fardell, Sir T. George	Lowe, Francis William
Baldwin, Alfred	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.	Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r	Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (M'ne'r	Lucas-Shadwell, William
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds	Finch, George H.	Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Banbury, Frederick George	Finlay, Sir R. Bannatyne	Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Firbank, Joseph Thomas	MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Barry, R. Hon. A. H. Smith-(Hnt	Fisher, William Hayes	Maclean, James Mackenzie
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Winds'r	Fison, Frederick William	M'iver, Sir Lewis (Edin'b'gh, W.
Bartley, George C. T.	FitzWygram, General Sir F.	Malcolm, Ian
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Flower, Ernest	Melville, Beresford Valentine
Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin	Galloway, William Johnson	Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants	Gibbs, Hon. V. (St. Albans)	Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Beckett, Ernest William	Giles, Charles Tyrrell	Milner, Sir Frederick George
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Gilliat, John Saunders	Milton, Viscount
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Godson, Sir A. Frederick	Milward, Colonel Victor
Beresford, Lord Charles	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Monk, Charles James
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon	Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Biddulph, Michael	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St George's	Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Bigwood, James	Goschen, G. J. (Sussex)	More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Bill, Charles	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Morgan, Hon. Fred (Monm'tsh.
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Graham, Henry Robert	Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Bond, Edward	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)	Muntz, Philip A.
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Gretton, John	Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Bousfield, William Robert	Greville, Hon. Ronald	Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)	Gull, Sir Cameron	Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Gunter, Colonel	Newark, Viscount
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Bullard, Sir Harry	Halsey, Thomas Frederick	O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Burdett-Coutts, W.	Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.	Penn, John
Butcher, John George	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.	Percy, Earl
Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward	Hanson, Sir Reginald	Pierpoint, Robert
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Hardy, Laurence.	Pilkington, R. (Lancs. Newton)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derby.)	Heaton, John Henniker	Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Helder, Augustus	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Henderson, Alexander	Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter	Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)	Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead	Purvis, Robert
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcr.)	Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)	Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Hobhouse, Henry	Rankin, Sir James
Charrington, Spencer	Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)	Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
Chelsea, Viscount	Hornby, Sir William Henry	Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Clarke, Sir Ed. (Plymouth)	Howard, Joseph	Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Cochrane, Hon. Thos H. A. E.	Howell, William Tudor	Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Coddington, Sir William	Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn	Round, James
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice	Royds, Clement Molynex
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Savory, Sir Joseph
Compton, Lord Alwyne	Kemp, George	Seely, Charles Hilton
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.	Seton-Karr, Henry
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley, W	Kenyon, James	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge	Kimber, Henry	Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred	King, Sir Henry Seymour	Simeon, Sir Barrington
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)	Lafore, Alfred	Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverp'l)	Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Curzon, Viscount	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry	Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Davies, Sir Hor. D. (Chatham	Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. E. H.	Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
Denny, Colonel	Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Dickson-Poynier, Sir John P.	Leighton, Stanley	
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph		

Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Ox'd Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Ed. Murray

Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell-(Birm'g'm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)

Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Younger, William
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham William (Rhondda)
 Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asher, Alexander
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Austin, M. (Liuverick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth, C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Blake, Edward
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crilly, Daniel
 Crombie, John William
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donegan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (South' ton)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford

Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson, E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 MacAlessie, Daniel
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred
 Maden, John Henry
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Meth'r)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hon. J. (Montrose)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 T. P. O'Connor, (Liverpool)

Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, Geo. Wm. (Reading)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Joe. A. (Northumb.)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs, SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
 Robertson, E. (Dundee)
 Robson, W. Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, C. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, C. E. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas C. T.
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John C. (Notts.)
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, J. (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddsfd.)
 Woods, Samuel
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Mr. Herbert Roberts and
 Mr. Lloyd-George.

MR. D. A. THOMAS : I quite recognise that the second part of the Amendment I have on the Paper is not now in order, but the first part is. The object of that part is to limit as far as possible the extent of the Bill. The Committee have

already decided that incumbents presented to a living after the passing of the Act should receive the benefit, but they have not yet decided or discussed whether those who have been recently presented should receive the benefit of the Bill. I

should like to limit it to those who have been presented to livings since the passing of the Agricultural Rating Act, 1896, and before the passing of the present Act. In my mind they are the only ones who can have had their expectations aroused of having half their rates paid. There can be no kind of sense of grievance with the rest, and therefore I beg to move this Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 25, to leave out paragraph (c) of Sub-section 1, and insert the words, 'The expression "owner," means the incumbent in receipt of the tithe rent-charge at the date of the passing of this Act.'"—(Mr. David Thomas.)

Question proposed, "That paragraph (c), of Sub-section 1, stand part of the clause."

MR. LONG: I hope the hon. Gentleman does not mean seriously to press this Amendment; if he does, I hope the Committee will reject it, because it proposes to reverse the decisions of other stages of the proceedings. We are asked to limit the clause to incumbents now in possession of their benefices; but if this Act comes into force the same rule ought to apply to the new incumbent as to the old.

MR. LEWIS: I cannot allow this opportunity to go by without protesting against the "legislation by reference" that we see in this particular sub-section. We are told that the expressions "owner of tithe rent-charge" and "tithe rent-charge" have the same meanings respectively as in the Tithe Act of 1891. When that Act is turned up it is found that a reference is made to the Tithe Act of 1836, so that to find out the meaning of these terms the Act of 1836 has to be consulted. This is a question in which not only lawyers but laymen are becoming increasingly concerned. If the Government introduce measures of this kind they ought to make them plain and simple to the ordinary intelligence. The country lawyer has to have his shelves stacked with volumes of old statutes, or else he is unable to explain to his clients what the meaning of such a section is. The very least the Government could have done would have been to refer people, not to the Act of 1891, but to the Act of 1836. I feel so strongly upon this subject that unless I

receive a satisfactory explanation why the clause has been so drawn I shall feel compelled to go to a Division.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: As a matter of fact, in the Tithe Act of 1891, Sec. 9, you are referred not merely to the Tithe Act of 1836 but to the Extraordinary Tithe Redemption Act of 1836, and to the Tithe Act of 1860, so that you have to refer to four Acts of Parliament before you can get a definition. This kind of drafting ought to come to an end. It lends some colour to the allegation which is sometimes made by people who do not know any better that Acts of Parliament are drafted in an obscure way for the benefit of the lawyers. You can explain in a few plain words what is meant by these terms, but instead of that a person is referred from Act of Parliament to Act of Parliament, and he is a very wise man who after consulting them can come to any definite conclusion at all. With regard to the substance of the Amendment, I exonerate the mover entirely from having supported an Amendment of mine which was the converse of this; I believe he voted against it. But we cut the Bill into two parts—those referring to past and future. If we could get rid of the benefits proposed to be given to those who lived in the past we should be very pleased, but if we could cut off the benefits from those who live in the future we should be, perhaps, still more pleased. I shall, therefore, with a perfectly clear conscience support the Amendment.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH: As far as I understand, the only reason why we are asked to support this Bill at all is in order to do some sort of justice to these people who have suffered so much in the past. If that is so, there is no reason whatever why we should confer any benefits upon future incumbents. They will then know perfectly well that they will not get any benefit, and therefore they will have no grievance on the ground that they are under a disadvantage as compared with those appointed before the passing of the Act. Consequently I shall vote for the Amendment.

SIR J. T. BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): The desire to have Acts of Parliament clear to the common understanding is one that I hold very dear indeed. I am delighted to have the

Mr. D. A. Thomas.

opportunity of appealing once more to Her Majesty's Government to take the advice which I have so often said has been given to them by the noble Lord at the head of the Government. Lord Salisbury has declared that the method of drafting Acts of Parliament was extremely repugnant to him, and he has made a promise, which I hope he will some day fulfil, of bringing in a Bill which should put an end to this mischief. Year after year we pass Acts of Parliament which necessitate references *ad nauseam* to former Acts, and I hope that these few words of mine may fall upon some good ground—if not on the Treasury bench, then elsewhere—and that my heart may be gladdened some day or other by this advice being taken.

MR. LEUTY (Leeds, E.): I am somewhat curious to know how the element of justice can possibly come into the discussion of this Amendment. It may be argued that in some way those who have property in tithe rent-charge are suffering from some injustice, and that that injustice ought to be removed. But how can it be argued with regard to men who are in the future to be presented to benefices that there can be any injustice in leaving matters as they are? According to the law, of this property a portion will be given to the gentlemen who occupy the offices, and another portion will go in payment of rates. If these gentlemen do not choose to take the proportion which the present law gives them, they have no need to take the office; and if they take the office, how can it be said that there is any injustice in their emoluments being limited to those attached to the office? Therefore the element of justice does not come in. But what does come in? What comes in is this—that it is desired by Her Majesty's Government to give additional endowments to these offices, so that the gentlemen who are advanced to them will find they are advanced to offices with larger endowments than they have to-day. The First Lord of the Treasury in the earlier part of the discussion made an appeal which ought to come with great weight to any man who desires to be at all fair-minded, and that was that all these old quarrels should be ended and forgotten. How can we expect that old quarrels will be ended and forgotten when Her Majesty's Government go to Dissenters, and to those who profess no religion at

all, and say to both, "You must and shall make a contribution for the increase of the endowments of the Church of England"?

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is making a statement which dangerously approaches a speech applicable to the Second Reading.

MR. LEUTY: I am extremely glad it only dangerously approaches, and I will try to steer farther from that point. If this Bill be founded on justice I might argue that at least justice was not involved in the proposal which the Amendment suggests should be left out, inasmuch as it would affect gentlemen who at present have no manner of interest in the property in question. As a Nonconformist, I should be only too delighted to see these quarrels forgotten. But if those quarrels cannot be forgotten, the fault lies with those who insist on keeping them open by measures of this kind.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: With regard to this increasing difficulty of interpreting Acts of Parliament owing to "legislation by reference," I believe the Incorporated Law Society had the matter under their consideration for several sessions and sent appeals to the Government. Those appeals have been considered by the Solicitor-General, who has replied in formal words, but he is too busily engaged in endowing the clergy to attend to the far more important point of simplifying some of these Acts of Parliament. Lawyers themselves are complaining about it, and the difficulty, great as it is now, will be increased by means of an Act like this, which legislates by reference to four or five other very complicated Acts. I have another objection to this sub-section, and that is the interpretation sought to be applied to the words "owner of tithe rent-charge." I really believe that if the words of the Tithe Act of 1891 had been incorporated in this Bill it would have struck even Members on the other side of the House as being an extraordinarily unfair proposition. What is the interpretation there? It is that if the tithe rent-charge is vested in the Queen in right of her Crown, "owner" means "the Commissioners of Woods" in substitution for the Queen. What on earth have the Com-

missioners of Woods to do with the relief which is to be granted to the clergy in respect of rates which are pressing heavily upon them? Surely they cannot complain that they are suffering. What is the second definition? It is that where the ownership is vested in the Duke of Cornwall it means the Keeper of the Records of the Duchy of Cornwall in substitution for the Duke of Cornwall. Who is the Keeper of the Records of the Duchy of Cornwall? What are the Records of the Duchy of Cornwall? We ought to have another definition, explaining what the Duchy of Cornwall is and what its limits are. Why should a grant be made to the Keeper of the Records of the Duchy of Cornwall and the Commissioners of Woods, in a Bill for the relief of the distress of the clergy? They have absolutely nothing whatever to do with it. The whole of that definition clause is confined to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests and to the Keeper of the Records of the Duchy of Cornwall, and we are asked to make a grant to those gentlemen under the Bill.

MR. LONG : Nonsense !

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE : What does it mean, then? If it is nonsense, it is non-

sense which is introduced by the right hon. Gentleman himself.

MR. LONG : I withdraw the word "nonsense," but it was drawn from me by the statement that we propose to give this grant to these various people. The grant is expressly given, in clear terms in the Bill, in respect of tithe rent-charge attached to a benefice, and clearly such tithe rent-charge is not enjoyed by Her Majesty's Commissioners.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE : Then if that is the case, what on earth do these words mean? This Bill is really a very stupid Bill. We have already decided that we will pay half the rates of the clerical owners of tithe rent—

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I move that the Question be now put.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE : That is the best answer the right hon. Gentleman can give me!

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 187
Noes, 107. (Division List, No. 253.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George	Chaloner, Capt. R. G. W.	Fardell, Sir T. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm)	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Arnold, Alfred	Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc')	Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Finch, George H.
Balcarres, Lord	Charrington, Spencer	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r	Clare, Octavius Leigh	Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds	Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)	Fisher, William Hayes
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Coddington, Sir William	Flower, Ernest
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith-	Coghill, Douglas Harry	Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Bartley, George C. T.	Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.	Compton, Lord Alwyne	Gilliat, John Saunders
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol	Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	Godson, Sir Augustus F.
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants	Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Ed. T. D.	Goldsworthy, Major-General
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge	Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.	Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (StGeo.'s)
Biddulph, Michael	Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Bigwood, James	Curzon, Viscount	Goulding, Edward Alfred
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Graham, Henry Robert
Bolton, Thomas Dolling	Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Green, Walford D. (Wed'bury)
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Denny, Colonel	Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Bousfield, William Robert	Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Hanson, Sir Reginald
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Dorington, Sir John Edward	Heaton, John Henniker
Bullard, Sir Harry	Doughty, George	Henderson, Alexander
Burdett-Coutts, W.	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
Butcher, John George	Doxford, William Theodore	Hill, Sir E. Stock (Bristol)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.)	Drucker, A.	Hoare, E. B. (Hampstead)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Elliott, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas	Hobhouse, Henry

Holland, Hon. L. R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice
 Jebb, R. Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
 Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount

Monk, Charles James
 More, Robert Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'tsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs. Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington

Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asher, Alexander
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Gl'sg'w)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Cawley, Frederick
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Doneelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Fenwick, Charles
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.

Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Hempill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H. Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)

Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Pearson, Sir Westman D.
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks)
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

Question put accordingly, "That paragraph (c), of Sub-section 1, stand part of the clause."

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George	Finch, George H.	Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Morrell, George Herbert
Arnold, Alfred	Firbank, Joseph Thomas	Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Fisher, William Hayes	Muntz, Philip A.
Balcarres, Lord	Flower, Ernest	Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)	Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)	Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Smith (Hunts)	Giles, Charles Tyrrell	O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Bartley, George C. T.	Gilliat, John Saunders	Penn, John
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.	Percy, Earl
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin	Goldsworth, Major-General	Pierpoint, Robert
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants.)	Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon	Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo's)	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Bennrose, Sir Henry Howe	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Biddulph, Michael	Graham, Henry Robert	Purvis, Robert
Bigwood, James	Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'y)	Rankin, Sir James
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Gretton, John	Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Boscowen, Arthur Griffith-	Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.	Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l)
Bousfield, William Robert	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.	Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Hanson, Sir Reginald	Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Henderson, Alexander	Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Bullard, Sir Harry	Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter	Round, James
Burdett-Coutts, W.	Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)	Royds, Clement Molyneux
Butcher, John George	Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)	Rutherford, John
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Hobhouse, Henry	Seton-Karr, Henry
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Hornby, Sir William Henry	Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)	Howell, William Tudor	Simeon, Sir Barrington
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)	Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn	Stanley Hn. A. (Ormskirk)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Charrington, Spencer	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Chelsea, Viscount	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Stock, James Henry
Clare, Octavius Leigh	Jenkins, Sir John Jones	Strauss, Arthur
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)	Kemp, George	Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Coddington, Sir William	Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.	Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Kenyon, James	Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Kimber, Henry	Thorburn, Walter
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	King, Sir Henry Seymour	Thornton, Percy M.
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	Lafone, Alfred	Tollemache, Henry James
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)	Tritton, Charles Ernest
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)	Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)	Valentia, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'ns'a	Wanklyn, James Leslie
Curzon, Viscount	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesh'm)	Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm)	Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)	Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
Denny, Colonel	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller	Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Lowe, Francis William	Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred	Wylie, Alexander
Dorington, Sir John Edward	Macartney, W. G. Ellison	Wyndham, George
Doughty, George	MacIver, David (Liverpool)	Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Malcolm, Ian	Wyvill, Marmande d'Arcy
Doxford, William Theodore	Melville, Beresford Valentine	Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Drucker, A.	Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.	Younger, William
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Mildmay, Francis Bingham	TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas	Milner, Sir Frederick George	William Walrond and Mr.
Fardell, Sir T. George	Milton, Viscount	Anstruther.
Fel'owes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.	Monk, Charles James	
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)	More, Robert Jasp. (Shropshire)	

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)	Ambrose, Robert	Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
Allan, William (Gateshead)	Asher, Alexander	Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)

Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Cawley, Frederick
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crilly, Daniel
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Fenwick, Charles
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Hempill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.

Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Kinloch, Sir J. George Smyth
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'l'd)
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'sc.)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare

Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Sullivan, Donald (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. Causton.

Mr. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question 'That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question 'That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 184; Noes, 97. (Division List, No. 255.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Barnes, Frederic Gorrell
 Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith (Hunts)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj'n
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants.)
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
 Biddulph, Michael
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.

Butcher, John George
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, E. (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Capt. R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcester)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir E. (Plymouth)
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Cook, F. L. (Lambeth)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
 Cross, A. (Glasgow)
 Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)

Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Dxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. R. Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. V. (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General

Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'y)
 Gretton, John
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Rinald
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampste'd)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'ns'a)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)

Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Monk, Charles James
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hon. F. (Monm'thsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux

Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allen, William (Gateshead)
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asher, Alexander
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Cawley, Frederick
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-

Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 MacAleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. MA (Queen's C)
 McCrae, George
 McDermott, Patrick
 McGee, Richard
 McLaren, Charles Benjamin
 McLeod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merth.)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

Question put accordingly, "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill." | The Committee divided:—Ayes, 184; Noes, 101. (Division List, No. 256.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George	Fardell, Sir T. George	Milton, Viscount
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.	Monk, Charles James
Arnold, Alfred	Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)	More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Atkinson, Right Hon. John	Finch, George H.	Morgan, Hn. F. (Monmouthsh.)
Balcarres, Lord	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Morrell, George Herbert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Man.)	Firbank, Joseph Thomas	Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)	Fisher, William Hayes	Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Flower, Ernest	Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Smith (H'nts)	Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)	Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Bartley, George C. T.	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)	O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.	Giles, Charles Tyrrell	Penn, John
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Brstl.)	Gilliat, John Saunders	Percy, Earl
Beach, W. W. B. (Hants)	Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.	Pierpoint, Robert
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.	Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Bigwood, James	Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)	Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Purvis, Robert
Bousfield, William Robert	Graham, Henry Robert	Rankin, Sir James
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)	Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
Bullard, Sir Harry	Gretton, John	Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Burdett-Coutts, W.	Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George	Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Butcher, John George	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.	Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derby.)	Hanson, Sir Reginald	Round, James
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Henderson, Alexander	Royds, Clement Molyneux
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Hill, Sir E. S. (Bristol)	Rutherford, John
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)	Hoare, E. B. (Hampstead)	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)	Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)	Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybridge)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Hobhouse, Henry	Simeon, Sir Barrington
Charrington, Spencer	Holland, Hon. L. R. (Bow)	Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Chelsea, Viscount	Hornby, Sir W. Henry	Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
Clare, Octavius Leigh	Howell, William Tudor	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)	Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn	Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Coddington, Sir William	Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice	Stock, James Henry
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Jenkins, Sir John Jones	Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Compton, Lord Alwyne	Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.	Thorburn, Walter
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Kenyon, James	Thornton, Percy M.
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	King, Sir Henry Seymour	Tollemache, Henry James
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.	Lafone, Alfred	Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	Tritton, Charles Ernest
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)	Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)	Valentia, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)	Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Curzon, Viscount	Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans'a)	Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)	Willox, Sir John Archibald
Denny, Colonel	Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)	Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Dickson-Poynier, Sir John P.	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller	Wylie, Alexander
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Lowe, Francis William	Wyndham, George
Dorington, Sir John Edward	Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred	Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
Doughty, George	Macartney, W. G. Ellison	Wyvill, Marmaduke d'Arcy
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	MacIver, David (Liverpool)	Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Doxford, William Theodore	Malcolm, Ian	Younger, William
Drucker, A.	Melville, Beresford Valentine	TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.	William Walron and Mr.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart	Mildmay, Francis Bingham	Anstruther.
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas	Milner, Sir Frederick George	

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)	Atherley-Jones, L.	Billson, Alfred
Allan, William (Gateshead)	Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)	Broadhurst, Henry
Ambrose, Robert	Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Caldwell, James
Asher, Alexander	Barlow, John Emmott	Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)

Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Cawley, Frederick
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crilly, Daniel
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lambert, George

Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leese, Sir Jos. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr M. A. (Queen's C)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morton, J. E. C. (Devonport)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh

Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Roberts, J. H. (Denbighs)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glam., E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. Causton.

Clause 3 :—

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) : The Amendment I have to move is a perfectly innocent one, and in ordinary circumstances I am certain it would have been accepted by the Government.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present; House counted, and, forty Members being found present :

MR. DALZIEL : I was saying that my Amendment is a perfectly innocent one, and under ordinary circumstances I should have hoped that it would have been accepted. But I am afraid the attitude of the Government towards all Amendments, innocent and uninnoent, gives me little hope that I shall be any more successful than some of my colleagues have been with their Amendments. The object of my Amendment is to alter the title of the Bill from "Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Act, 1899," to "Tithe Rent-charge (Rates Relief) Act, 1899." That is an Amendment which I think is obvious on the face of it. The Solicitor-General will agree that the title of an Act of Parliament should, as far as possible, convey the meaning of the Act and give it a particular identification from all other Acts dealing with the same

subject. We have already other Acts dealing with tithe—I do not know how many—and it would be an advantage if anyone wished to turn it up and refer to it, so as to understand its meaning, if the word I have suggested were inserted. I think that the clergymen who gain by this Bill will not deny that they are obtaining relief, and the Government will not deny that they are giving the clergy relief. I am sure the Amendment will not do the Bill any harm, and it better expresses the object of the Bill than the present title. I hope the hon. and learned Member the Solicitor-General will accept the addition of the word "Relief," and make it unnecessary to have further discussion.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 1, after the word 'Rates,' to insert the word 'Relief.'"—(Mr. Dalziel.)

Question proposed, "That the word 'Relief' be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY : I know how anxious the hon. Gentleman is to save the time of the Committee, and it gives me some pleasure in these circumstances to say at once that I am not able to accede to his request. He said that his Amendment was an innocent one, but innocence

is not quite enough to induce its acceptance. It is necessary that there should be something in the Amendment. I am quite unable to see why the title of the measure should be amended in the direction desired. It is not usual to go into detail in the title if it sufficiently indicates the general subject dealt with. That subject is sufficiently indicated in the title, "Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Act, 1899," and therefore I cannot recommend the acceptance of the Amendment.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: As another Member anxious to save the time of the Committee, I wish to support the Amendment of my hon. friend. The hon. and learned Solicitor-General says that the mere fact of innocence is not enough for the acceptance of an Amendment; but earlier in the evening the only argument he advanced for the retention of some words in the Bill was that they would do no harm. But that is not my argument in favour of the Amendment. I think the title of a Bill ought to indicate clearly the nature of the Bill, so that the public should know what really its object is. If anyone looked at the title of the Bill as it stands, he would think that it had something to do with rating. It has nothing whatever to do with rating. I am sure the hon. and learned Solicitor-General will admit that. It does not affect rating; it does not touch assessment; and there is nothing about valuation in it. If the recommendations of the hon. member for Stroud and those who co-operated with him on the Royal Commission had been adopted, and changes had been made in the rating of the clergy, I quite admit that this might have been a very fair description of the Bill. But what is the nature of the transaction? The rating of the clergy is not touched; the rates of the clergy are not touched; everything is to remain exactly as it is, and only a certain amount of relief is to be given to the clergy. If you want a simple, condensed description of what the nature and character of the Bill is, it is "Tithe Rent-charge (Rates Relief) Bill." So far as the popular mind is concerned it is really a Bill granting an addition to the endowment of the Church of England. A better description would have been "a Bill for making an addition to the stipends of the clergy," for its object is really a vote by Parliament to add £87,000 a year to the salaries or stipends

of the clergy of the Established Church. I think the Committee ought to characterise this Bill according to the real nature of the transaction embodied in it. Why should the Government be afraid of it unless they are ashamed of this transaction? Why not call it by its proper name? They are actually afraid to put in a condensed form the character of the transaction.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I join in the appeal to the Solicitor-General to be reasonable. The Government have not up to the present exercised much reason in regard to the conduct of this Bill. I am bound to admit that there have been Amendments which I have supported which have perhaps been not quite so sensible as this. I cannot conceive anything more just than to ask that the Bill should be described in language in harmony with its nature. This is essentially an "Outdoor Relief Bill." Had I been consulted, I should have suggested as a description, "Tithe Rent-charge Out-door Relief Bill." Had we innocents, who are not favoured with a knowledge of the law, not been joining in the discussion of the Bill, we should not have known the meaning of it from its title, which is absolutely misleading. It is a strong thing to say that the Government gave it this title in order to mislead. I should not like to be so offensive as to suggest that; but many people would say so, and I am bound to admit that they would not be indulging in great inaccuracy. I think I know what the Solicitor-General is after; it is to see that nothing is done, or undone, that will necessitate a Report stage. I really think we ought to have one small concession in the demands of reason, truth, and justice before we part with this Bill.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I think this is an Amendment which the hon. Gentlemen opposite might very well accept. It is very reasonable, and the arguments on which my hon. friend based it must commend themselves to the Committee. I hope my hon. friend, unless he gets a far more satisfactory reply than he has done, will press the Amendment to a Division. The hon. and learned Member opposite has frankly acknowledged that we on this side of the House have no desire to prolong proceedings, and for my part, although the closure has been moved.

against me more than once, I have not put a single Amendment on the Paper that has not been in order. Well, the hon. and learned Member said it was not enough for an Amendment to be childlike and innocent. I do not know what he meant; but I remember his Leader coming down here and saying that on certain matters he was a child. In this matter we are children, and I do not think the hon. and learned Gentlemen ought to take any exception to us on that ground. The title of the Bill as proposed by the hon. and learned Member is distinctly misleading. It says, "This Act may be cited as the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Act, 1899." After the discussions we have had, who can say in truth that that is an accurate description of the Bill? It only applies to one section of tithe rent-charge, to the tithe rent-charge attached to a benefice, and I say that the title is a distinct misnomer.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That is not the point before the Committee. The point is the word "relief."

MR. D. A. THOMAS: It is not a relief to the lay impropriator, or to the tithe rent-charge belonging to colleges and schools. But even as it is, the word "relief" will make the title more appropriate to the character of the Bill.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract): I really think that this additional word "relief" does describe the purpose of the Bill more accurately than the description the Government have adopted. We are told the true principle underlying the Bill is the principle of justice, and that it was introduced in order to do justice to the clergy who have paid too much rates. I cannot see that the addition of this word "relief" interferes with the principle of justice. Then we are told that the Bill was introduced for personal services.

*THE CHAIRMAN: This is not the opportunity for reviewing all the Debates.

MR. NUSSEY: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Lowther. I would like to show that this word "relief" more accurately describes the character of the Bill than the Government in its infinite wisdom—

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is now repeating arguments which have already been used.

Mr. D. A. Thomas.

MR. NUSSEY: I will not go beyond that. The actual interpolation of the word "relief" does not cast any slur whatever on the clergy. I am sure my hon. friend would not have moved it if he thought the word cast any slur on the clergy at all. The object is more accurately to convey to the electors at large the real object of the Bill, and as such I hope the Government will accept it.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: Whenever the Government do not like the real object of a Bill to be exposed they always adopt a misnomer of a title. For instance, they introduce a "Rating Machinery Bill." But it is not a Bill for rating of machinery, but for the exemption of machinery from rating. I do not like the title of the Bill, or even the title, "The Clergy Relief Bill." To paraphrase a classical quotation, "How unhappy could I be with either." But by any other name this Bill would be to me equally unsweet.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside): I have no legal knowledge, and therefore it is almost presumption for me to follow the Solicitor-General, but I do not understand the meaning of the word "rates" as introduced.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That is not the Question. The Question is that the words "rates relief" should be inserted.

MR. MADDISON: I think the word "relief" should certainly be inserted, because unless you have something to indicate the character of the Bill, you will have a peculiar anomaly. Take the City of Sheffield. The title, "Tithe Rent Charge (Rates) Bill," would be entirely misleading to that great Yorkshire city, because the rates there do not apply to tithe rent-charge at all. There is not in that city a single penny of tithe rent-charge, although of course, as my hon. friend reminds me, the inhabitants of that city will have to pay. That is part of the policy of the Bill that I am not allowed to go into, and I do not wish to appear to do so. My only point is that this Bill is misleading, because it gives a title that has no application to certain districts of the country. Therefore, if the word relief, or if some other better word than relief, could be inserted in the title, it would

give not merely an innocent appearance to the Bill, but an accurate description to the Bill itself. I certainly do think, while I cannot agree with the hon. Member for Leicester that this is the most important Amendment moved, that it is a substantial Amendment, that is to say, if the Government desire that the description of the Bill shall give any indication of its contents. The chances are that the Government, wise in their day and generation, do not want this to be done, but still I think that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill ought really to favourably consider either the actual word moved, or some other similar word in order to give the Bill an accurate description.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS: There is one provision in this Bill to which the

proposed title of the Bill certainly is not applicable. The second sub-section of Clause 2 differs from all the other provisions of the Bill in this respect, that other provisions of the Bill relate to clergymen whose incomes are dependent upon the receipt of tithe rent-charge; but Sub-section 2 of Clause 2 relates to quite another—

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That part of the Bill has been passed, and the hon. Member cannot refer back to it.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 105; Noes, 175. (Division List, No. 257.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)	Goddard, Daniel Ford	O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Allan, William (Gateshead)	Gold, Charles	Oldroyd, Mark
Ambrose, Robert	Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley	O'Malley, William
Asher, Alexander	Hazzell, Walter	Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
Austin, Sir J. (Yorkshire)	Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.	Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Horniman, Frederick John	Power, Patrick Joseph
Barlow, John Emmott	Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.	Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)	Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)	Randell, David
Billson, Alfred	Jacoby, James Alfred	Reckitt, Harold James
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson	Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Ed.	Rickett, J. Compton
Burns, John	Kilbride, Denis	Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Caldwell, James	Labouchere, Henry	Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
Cameron, Sir C. (Glasgow)	Langley, Batty	Schwanne, Charles E.
Cameron, Robert (Durham)	Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)	Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	Leng, Sir John	Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Causton, Richard Knight	Leuty, Thomas Richmond	Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Lewis, John Herbert	Souttar, Robinson
Clough, Walter Owen	Macaleese, Daniel	Spicer, Albert
Colville, John	MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Q'n's C.)	Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph	M'Crae, George	Steadman, William Charles
Crilly, Daniel	M'Dermott, Patrick	Stevenson, Francis S.
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	M'Ghee, Richard	Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	M'Kenna, Reginald	Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Davies, M. V. (Cardigan)	M'Laren, Charles Benjamin	Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Davitt, Michael	M'Leod, John	Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
Dillon, John	Maddison, Fred.	Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Donelan, Captain A.	Maden, John Henry	Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Doogan, P. C.	Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand	Weir, James Galloway
Duckworth, James	Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)	Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Dunn, Sir William	Morgan, J. Lloyd (Ca' m'rthen	Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)	Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)	Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Evershed, Sydney	Morley, Charles (Breconshire)	Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Fenwick, Charles	Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)	Yoxall, James Henry
Flynn, James Christopher	Norton, Capt. Cecil William	TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)	Nussey, Thomas Willans	Mr. Dalziel and Mr. Broad-
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herb. John	O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)	hurst.

NOES.

Allsopp, Hon. George	Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Archdale, E. Mervyn	Banbury, Frederick George
Arnold, Alfred	Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith (Hunts)
Balcarres, Lord	Bartley, George C. T.
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)	Barton, Dunbar Plunket

Bathurst, Hon. A. B.
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.
Biddulph, Michael

Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscowen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)

Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Colonel A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Monk, Charles James
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert

Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs., Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Stanley, Sir Hy. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Ward, Hon. Robt. A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E.
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Question put, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill." | The Committee divided :—Ayes, 184 ; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 258.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Rt. Hon. A. Smith (Hunts)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin

Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bhownaglree, Sir M. M.
 Biddulph, Michael
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscowen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.

Butcher, John George
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plym'th)

Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.

Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houston, R. P.
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
 Llewelyn, Sir D. (Swansea)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Milton, Viscount
 Monk, Charles James
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)

Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs. Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. T.
 Robertson, H. (Hackney)
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Saunderson, Rt. Hon. Col. E. J.
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Sharpe, W. E. T.
 Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. H. Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Ward, Hon. R. A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E.
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilcox, Sir J. Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asher, Alexander
 Atherton-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John

Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crilly, Daniel
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Doneelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Fenwick, Charles
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gold, Charles
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir W.

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kilbride, Denis
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Macauley, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn's C.)

M'Crae, George
 M'Dernott, Patrick
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark

O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighsh.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.

Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. Causton.

Clause 4 :—

MR. LEWIS: On a point of order I wish to ask whether, if I move the Amendment which stands in my name, it will have the effect of cutting out the Amendment which stands in the name of the hon. Member for Merthyr, which comes next, or whether the hon. Member's Amendment will be saved when you put the Question?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I will put the Amendment in such a way as to safeguard the hon. Member's Amendment.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: Then I beg to move the Amendment which stands in my name. The effect of the Amendment will be practically to postpone the coming into effect of the Bill until the Royal Commission has reported, and until the Agricultural Rates Act has ceased to exist. The whole subject of local rating will then have to be considered, and a decision applicable to the whole subject can be taken. If this Act is postponed in its operation until the Agricultural Rates Act has expired the country will have an opportunity of thoroughly considering it. If it is a just measure it will, of course, remain, with the assent of the country, upon the Statute Book; if it is an unjust measure, the country will have an opportunity of considering the question of the incidence of local taxation as a whole. I think that everyone admits that a radical reform of local taxation is necessary, and that that question ought to be considered and dealt with as a whole. But the object of my Amendment is to enable the question to be considered as a whole. The grievance—or the alleged grievance—which this

Bill has been introduced to remedy has existed for at least 300 years, and we are asked to consider and satisfactorily settle the whole question in three weeks. All I ask in my Amendment is that the matter shall stand over for two years, so that after 300 years the country may have the opportunity of considering whether it is right to make the change or not. What is the use of bringing in a Bill of this sort, the effect of which will only be to last two years? It leaves the clergy themselves in a state of uncertainty. A man receives an addition to his income, and he puts up his expenditure accordingly. At the end of two years it is possible that his income may have to come down again. Under these circumstances it is surely very unwise for the House, following the lead of the hon. and learned Member for Stroud, to plunge into these interim Reports and dangerous experiments without having any clear or adequate notion whether the country in two years' time will sanction the Bill and make it a permanent measure or not. If justice—and this is supposed to be the keynote of this Bill—if justice is to be enacted at all, then let it be enacted for all time and after full consideration, and not after two or three weeks' discussion. I think I have said enough—I do not want to detain the Committee at this hour of the evening—I think I have said enough to show that my Amendment is one of a reasonable character. I know that the Government have made up their minds to reject every Amendment that may be moved, however reasonable. I do not think that they will improve the respect which the country—or some small section of the country—may entertain for this Bill by the action.

that they are taking. What are we here for? Are we here to discuss Amendments or not? Why did not the Minister for Agriculture or the Leader of the House tell us: "You may discuss this Bill if you like for a week or a fortnight or a month —"

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That is not relevant to the subject.

MR. LEWIS: I was only proceeding to say with regard to this particular Amendment that I had not any very great hope that it would be accepted. Still, at the same time I commend it to the attention of the Government and of the Committee, in the hope that at the eleventh hour it may be accepted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 3, to leave out from the word 'shall,' to the word 'said,' in line 9, and insert the words, 'not come into operation until the expiration of the.'"—(Mr. Herbert Lewis.)

Question proposed, "That the words of the clause to 'any,' in line 4, stand part of the clause."

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Upon a point of order, I would suggest to you, Sir, that in putting this Amendment you should save not only one which I have upon the Paper, but one which I have handed in in manuscript, the object of which is to prevent the Government from passing this Bill within a stated period.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member's Amendment does not come in until line 7.

MR. LONG: The Amendment proposed by the hon. Gentleman is no doubt a reasonable one from his point of view. We were foolish enough to believe that by following the precedent of the Agricultural Rating Act of 1896, we should have received the approbation of the hon. Member opposite and his support in favour of restricted legislation. He does not appear however, to agree to the principle of limiting the Act to two years. The effect of the Amendment would be that at the end of two years the Bill would become permanent in its operation. This proposal appears to be carrying the Bill further than we desire.

The Bill has been introduced as a temporary measure on the recommendation of the Royal Commissioners, and we propose, pending a final settlement of the whole question of local taxation, that a hardship which presses with particular severity on one class of the community should be dealt with in a temporary but effective measure, and I hope the Committee will reject this very insidious proposal. I suggest to hon. Members, in the interest of the Committee as a whole, that the discussion should be mainly directed to the important and substantial Amendments on the Paper, rather than to those which raise minor questions of interest.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: Will the right hon. Gentleman accept any?

MR. LONG: My suggestion was chiefly made in the interest of hon. Members opposite, and on the presumption that they had a real interest in the Amendments appearing in their names on the Paper. If they have no real interest in them, but merely move them to occupy the time of the Committee, then obviously the closure will meet our purpose. I ask the Committee to decide against this Amendment.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The right hon. Gentleman has made an appeal to us that we shall proceed to discuss the Amendments which appear on the Paper, and no doubt we shall do so. We have plenty of time to do that before the end of the session; it can be done on Monday. The clergy are not in such a hurry to get their money as all that, and even if they were, there is no rate until September, so there is no need for us to hurry. The right hon. Gentleman seems to be very much afraid that, if he accepts my hon. friend's Amendment, after two years' consideration, Parliament would not put this Bill into operation. But the right hon. Gentleman says, "Why not do as you did in the Agricultural Rating Act? You then appealed to us to make it only for five years, and then a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the whole matter of taxation." That was the mistake which we made in dealing with the Agricultural Rating Act—first of all in voting the money allocated by it on the expectation that the Royal Commission would consider the question relegated to it. But the Commission has not done

so. And what we now say in respect of this Bill is, " You shall have the money after you have considered the question, but not before. We shall not give you the money for two years."

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR : I understood the right hon. Gentleman to make a declaration which I am sorry he did not consider earlier, and I should like to ask him, and we on this side of the House would like to know, the precise meaning of his declaration that these Amendments should be discussed shortly, in order that we might consider the more important Amendments. That declaration is extremely reasonable, and we only now desire to know which of what he considers the more important Amendments he is prepared to accept.

MR. LONG : I am afraid the hon. Gentleman entirely misunderstood me. I made the suggestion in the interests of hon. Gentlemen opposite. I thought they would discriminate between them. If they are all important, our position becomes much easier.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR : If the right hon. Gentleman means that if we concentrate our attention on certain interesting and important Amendments we would have some chance of getting even two or three Amendments accepted, there may be some reason for listening to the suggestion ; but if, on the other hand, when those Amendments have had the attention of the Committee, the right hon. Gentleman is going to meet them with the same *non possumus*, we should only be wasting his time and our own.

*THE CHAIRMAN : I would respectfully invite the Committee to return to the consideration of the Amendment.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT : The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill having made a proposal, I think the Committee ought to be allowed really to understand the nature of the offer that has been made. What I understood the right hon. Gentleman to say was, that there are a certain number of Amendments, some of which are more important than others, and that if we economised the time on the less important, and devoted it to the more important Amendments, that would be far the better

Mr. Lloyd-George.

course. The Committee would be glad to know what amount of time they will be allowed to apportion between the various Amendments.

MR. LONG rose.

*THE CHAIRMAN, speaking amid cries of "Long," again said : I would again respectfully invite the Committee to consider the Amendment before the House.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR : Before you put the Question, Sir, I must again appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to say what he meant.

*THE CHAIRMAN : That is not relevant to the question before the Committee. I have permitted the hon. Gentleman the Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool and the right hon. Gentleman the member for West Monmouth to make statements because the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill made a statement, but I think the Committee ought to return again to the consideration of the Amendment.

MR. DALZIEL : I propose to return to the Amendment. I do not think the case put forward for the Amendment has been answered by the right hon. Gentleman. The question I was going to put is this : If an injustice exists now and has existed for some time, and if it is the intention of the Bill to remedy that injustice, why is the Government only going to remedy it for two years ? Why does not the right hon. Gentleman take the responsibility of making this a permanent measure ? It seems to me here is a case for the contention of my hon. friend. We are to have a Report of the Commission, but no one can tell when. I always notice that, when once a Commission is appointed, if the secretary draws a good salary, it takes a very long time to report. Let us wait for the Report of this Commission, and when we have the full facts we shall know how to deal with them.

MR. MADDISON : I support the Amendment because it delays the passing of this measure until the Royal Commission reports, and the Agricultural Rating Act comes to an end. Although the Bill has only been under discussion for two or

three days there are already signs that it is viewed with great dissatisfaction in the country. The County Council of the West Riding, containing a majority I believe of gentlemen who hold views similar to those of the hon. Gentlemen opposite, have taken very strong exception to one of the most important provisions in the Bill, and the City Council of Sheffield, where parties are evenly balanced, passed a resolution with only three or four dissentients condemning the Bill. I consider the Amendment is a reasonable one, and I think it is unreasonable on the part of the Government to oppose all these Amendments as they have done, and I think they are doing themselves a great injustice in attempting to rush this Bill.

MR. LAMBERT: I should like to know whether this Bill is on all fours with the Agricultural Rating Bill of 1896. Will it apply to the new works of the parish councils, which the Agricultural Rating Act did not?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: It will apply to all rates without exception.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): This Bill has been sprung upon us, and neither we nor the country have had sufficient time to consider its effect. My hon. friend's proposition is that it should not become operative for two years, and that after that time it should become permanent. If I were perfectly certain we should win the next General Election—I think we shall, but we can never be absolutely certain on these matters—I should support that, but if we lose the General Election we shall have this Bill for another six years, and the question is whether we had not better lose the money for two years and then let the Act lapse, or whether we should pay the money permanently.

***LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade):** Before the Question is put I wish to ask, seeing that the Agricultural Rating Act, 1896, intentionally or not, does not apply to the parish council rate in regard to the repayment from the Local Taxation Fund, though it applies to other rates, whether it is intended that this Act should have attached to it the same exclusion or exemption.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: The answer to that really turns upon the question of who

are the spending authorities. The spending authorities are mentioned in the Agricultural Rating Act, 1896. We have no such definition here, because the scheme of the Bill in that respect is different from the Act of 1896. There is no fixed sum paid yearly during the continuance of the Act for authorities defined as spending authorities, but the condition is that half of all rates, with the exceptions specified in the clause under consideration, should be borne by the incumbent, and the other half paid in the manner prescribed.

***LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE:** But the incumbent in this case will obtain the benefit of a reduction of half the parish council rate?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: Certainly.

MR. LOGAN (Leicestershire, Harborough): The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill said that those of us who voted for this Amendment would be voting for making the Bill a dummy Bill. I do not understand that to be the object of my hon. friend. His object is that during the next two years the country shall have an opportunity of realising the provisions of this Bill as they seem to have been realised in certain parts of the country. At the expiration of that time I believe that no Government will have the nerve to bring in a similar Bill. By that time the nation will have realised that this is a Bill to relieve parsons from rates which they do not pay. There is no man who will under this Bill have half his rates paid for him in the future, but was allowed when his stipend was settled the full value of the rates which he would have to pay. Therefore I am absolutely accurate when I say that this is a Bill to relieve parsons of rates which they have not got to pay. On that ground I shall have the very greatest pleasure indeed in supporting my hon. friend in the Division Lobby in endeavouring to give the country an opportunity of realising what is the object of the Government in bringing in this iniquitous measure.

MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich): This Amendment will give the country an opportunity of considering the measure—

*THE CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member is anticipating his Third Reading speech.

MR. CAWLEY : I will not pursue that point. But this Amendment will give the country a great chance of really considering the question thoroughly. When this measure was sprung upon the House very few Members on either side really understood the question. We on this side of the House have had a chance of being educated by our colleagues. Members on the other side have had the same chance of being educated—whether or not they have taken advantage of it I do not know. What I would point out is that the country is being educated by the Debates in this House, and if they have a chance of two years' education they may come to a different conclusion than the majority in the House anticipate. Therefore, I say that the majority in this House do not represent the majority in the country.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS : I should like the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill to tell us on what ground the operation of this measure is to be limited to the continuance of the Agricultural Rating Act of 1896. That is a piece of information which has not been given throughout the discussion. The Agricultural Rating Act was, beyond all question, due to agricultural depression, but we have been told again and again that this Bill has no connection whatever with agricultural depression. That being the case, why should this limitation be imposed? It is utterly inconsistent with all the arguments which have been used in support of the Bill. In truth, the course pursued by the Government has been a mass of inconsistencies from beginning to end.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 244 ; Noes, 148. (Division List, No. 259.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George	Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Arnold, Alfred	Charrington, Spencer	Fisher, William Hayes
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Chelsea, Viscount	Flower, Ernest
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Clare, Octavius Leigh	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Bailey, James (Walworth)	Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)	Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)	Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Baird, John George Alexander	Coddington, Sir William	Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Balcarres, Lord	Coghill, Douglas Harry	Gilliat, John Saunders
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)	Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)	Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Goldsworthy, Major-General
Banbury, Frederick George	Compton, Lord Alwyne	Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith (Hunts)	Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Bartley, George C. T.	Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Goulding, Edward Alfred
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin	Cripps, Charles Alfred	Graham, Henry Robert
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants)	Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Cruddas, William Donaldson	Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs)
Bentrose, Sir Henry Howe	Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Gretton, John
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Curzon, Viscount	Gull, Sir Cameron
Beresford, Lord Charles	Dalkeith, Earl of	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
Bigwood, James	Davies, Sir Hor. D. (Chatham)	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Bill, Charles	Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Hanson, Sir Reginald
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Hardy, Laurence
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme	Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon	Hare, Thomas Leigh
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Dorington, Sir John Edward	Heaton, John Henniker
Bousfield, William Robert	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Helder, Augustus
Brassey, Albert	Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	Henderson, Alexander
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Doxford, William Theodore	Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Bullard, Sir Harry	Drucker, A.	Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
Burdett-Coutts, W.	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Holland, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
Butcher, John George	Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart	Hobhouse, Henry
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas	Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (D'rbysire)	Fardell, Sir T. George	Hornby, Sir William Henry
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward	Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc.)	Houston, R. P.
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Field Admiral (Eastbourne)	Howell, William Tudor
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.	Finch, George H.	Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn

Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice
 Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Edw. H.
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Elewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Colonel A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Luca^s, Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. John
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George

Milton, Viscount
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlepool)
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Saunderson, Rt. Hon. Col. E. J.
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.

Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybridge)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke d'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asher, Alexander
 Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir C. (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John

Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. V. (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Owen Morgan
 Ellis, John Edward
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (South ton)
 Everhard, Sydney
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Gardon, Sir Wm. Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Hazell, Walter

Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
 Jocey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson, E.
 Kinloch, Sir J. G. Smyth
 Labouchere, Henry
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmonde
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Longf, Thomas
 Macleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M.A. (Queen's C)
 M'Arthur, W. (Cornwall)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard

M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durh'm)
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)

Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs. SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles

Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whitely, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudders.)
 Woods, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Lewis and Mr. Lambert.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I move this Amendment with a degree of diffidence, because of what has fallen from the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, and because, in his august presence, I am not sure that any Amendment of mine will be regarded as important. Earlier in the evening he asked me whether I was serious. In moving this Amendment I assure him and the Committee that I am as serious and sincere and conscientious as the right hon. Gentleman himself could possibly be in promoting the Bill. I am not going to say anything about his impartiality, because I am sure the Chairman would rule me out of order. I wish to thank the hon. and learned Member the Solicitor-General for acknowledging that he recognised that the Amendments moved from this side of the House were not moved with any intention of prolonging the proceedings on this Bill. (Laughter.) Hon. Members may laugh, but the Solicitor-General said that, and, as far as I could see, with all seriousness. To come to this Amendment, I moved a similar one upon the Agricultural Rating Bill of 1896. It was then supported with almost unanimity on this side, and received some support on the other side of the House, while in the country it received a still larger measure of support. That being so, I venture to think that an Amendment exempting the poor-rate should receive infinitely more support in relation to this particular Bill than in the case of the Agricultural Rating Act. There can be no question at all that, at any rate up to the days of Elizabeth—in fact, I challenge hon. Members to deny that in the first instance—

the relief of the poor came out of the tithe. It was not a question of paying a small rate for that purpose, but at the very least one-third of the tithe went to the relief of the poor. If that was the case at the origin of the tithe and for many centuries after, I say that even now the question of the rate for the relief of the poor ought to be exempted from a measure which proposes to relieve parsons from half the rates which they now pay. The grounds for my motion are very substantial, and with all seriousness I venture to commend it to the Committee.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 4, after the word ‘except’ to insert the words ‘any rate levied in relief of the poor or.’”—(Mr. D. A. Thomas.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

MR. LONG: I hope I may be allowed to assure the hon. Gentleman that when I referred to the seriousness of his previous Amendment I did not mean to throw the slightest doubt upon the sincerity of his motives. The present Amendment, I frankly admit, is a very substantial one—substantial because, if carried, it would destroy at least one-half of the effect of the Bill. It has been advanced and recommended to the Committee in a manner totally different from that which I had anticipated, and therefore the remarks I had prepared in answer to it are scarcely applicable. The hon. Gentleman has frankly told us that he casts aside altogether the historical arguments to which hon. Gentlemen on

the other side have attached so much importance during previous discussions. He remarked upon the importance of the circumstances up to Queen Elizabeth, but what importance he attaches to the period since Queen Elizabeth's time I do not know. At any rate, he abrogates the whole historical argument.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Oh, no!

MR. LONG: I admit that this is a substantial argument—that is to say, it raises a question which goes to the very foundation of the whole problem of the readjustment of local taxation. I am not casting any doubts upon the *bona fides* of the hon. Member or the sincerity of his motives in bringing forward Amendments, but this is an Amendment practically to the Second Reading, because it raises the whole question of the historical liability of certain classes of property to rates. Whatever may have been the case for the historical argument which has been urged with so much force by gentlemen opposite, Parliament has to realise that there has been a complete change in the capacity of different classes of property to bear the burden of local rates, and that, whatever may have been the case in the days when these burdens were created, at the present time the burden is unjustly distributed and the inequality ought to be redressed. To exclude from a measure of reform such as this the poor rate—which is probably at least half, and in some cases more than half—would be to make a farce of any reform of local taxation. Therefore, I think I am justified in saying that it is unnecessary and undesirable that we should go at this period of the Debate, on an Amendment in Committee, into the whole question, historical or otherwise, and I am justified, I think, in asking the Committee to reject this Amendment on the ground that in the first place, we have proved that the incidence of local taxation is unjust and unfair; and in the second place no attempt has been made to meet the argument that if this Amendment were carried it would reduce the relief in a degree for which there is no justification whatever. I therefore ask the Committee to resist this Amendment, and I hope they will do so, because we have so far established the case for those whom we seek to relieve.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: I am sure the House will be very sorry that, by reason of the capital speech made by my hon. friend who moved this Amendment, the right hon. Gentleman has not been able to put before the House the observations which he had prepared in answer to this proposal. I suppose that is the reason why the right hon. Gentleman did not, so far as I could gather, adduce one single argument why this poor rate should be excused to one class of persons. He said my hon. friend has turned his back upon all ancient authorities; but he had done nothing of the kind, for he had not had time to get them out. Here is a book from which I should like to quote one passage. It is a book written by the hon. and learned Member for Stroud, and in it he invites us to go back to ancient history, and this is what the hon. and learned Member says:

“During the first ages of Christianity—and I hope that goes back far enough to please the right hon. Gentleman—

“Clergymen were supported by the voluntary offerings of their flock.”

It is a pity that that is not so now. Continuing the quotation, the hon. and learned Member says:

“But this being a precarious existence, the ecclesiastics in every country in Europe claimed, and, what is more important, in the course of time established, a right to the tenth part of the produce of the land.”

That is the origin of tithe in the early ages of Christianity. Then we have got this Report which is the foundation for this Bill, and it deals with the subject *in extenso*. In that Report the Commissioners go back further than the first ages of Christianity, for they go back to Leviticus. I venture to call the attention of the Committee to Clause 4 of the Report, which states that tithes were devoted to the maintenance of the church fabric, the use of the bishop and incumbent, and also:

“To some extent, to the feeding of the poor and the entertainment of the stranger.”

Apparently that “some extent” has vanished entirely now; and yet this is the rate which you are proposing to take, to the extent of one-half of it, from the shoulders of those whose only excuse—if excuse they have—for taking the tithes at all is, that out of this rate they were, to

the extent of one-third, willing to maintain the poor. I am inclined to cite one more authority, more particularly as I now see the First Lord of the Admiralty in his place. Hitherto, I think the only part which the right hon. Gentleman has taken in these discussions is the part of walking through the Lobby. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will allow me to call the attention of the Committee to some cogent observations made by him with respect to the poor rates. This is what he said :

"I rejoice to say that it seems that the turning-point has arrived, and unless the House should take the dangerous step of supplementing the poor rates by grants from the Consolidated Fund, there may be some hopes of the poor rates being reduced. But I am certain that no step is more likely to increase our expenditure than if the House was to open the flood-gates of the Consolidated Fund."

Those are opinions which the right hon. Gentleman expressed when he was in the prime of his manhood, and, so far as we

are concerned, we adhere to those very liberal opinions which he then expressed. No doubt the Committee will be glad of any enlightenment from the point of view of the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Admiralty, and we should like to hear some reason for his change of opinion. Unless he gives us some very good reason, we shall be forced to go into the Lobby in obedience to the call of my hon. friend the Member for Merthyr Tydvil. While the clergyman is to be relieved, the poor farmer has to pay his rates in full, and the clergyman is also being relieved of his duty to the poor. Therefore I think my hon. friend was justified in bringing forward this Amendment, for he is only putting forward opinions which were once held by the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Admiralty himself.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 149 ; Noes, 267. (Division List, No. 260.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)	Dunn, Sir William	Lloyd-George, David
Allan, William (Gateshead)	Edwards, Owen Morgan	Logan, John William
Ambrose, Robert	Ellis, John Edward	Lough, Thomas
Asher, Alexander	Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)	Macaleese, Daniel
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry	Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)	MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'n's C
Atherley-Jones, L.	Evershed, Sydney	M'Crae, George
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)	Fenwick, Charles	M'Dermott, Patrick
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)	M'Ewan, William
Barlow, John Emmott	Fitzmaurice, Lord Edinond	M'Ghee, Richard
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)	Flynn, James Christopher	M'Kenna, Reginald
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)	M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Billson, Alfred	Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry	M'Leod, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling	Goddard, Daniel Ford	Maddison, Fred
Broadhurst, Henry	Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley	Maden, John Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson	Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton	Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn	Haldane, Richard Burdon	Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Burns, John	Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.	Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Burt, Thomas	Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-	Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr
Buxton, Sydney Charles	Hazell, Walter	Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
Caldwell, James	Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.	Morley, Rt. Hon. John (Montrose)
Cameron, Robert (Durham)	Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.	Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)	Moulton, John Fletcher
Causton, Richard Knight	Horniman, Frederick John	Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Cawley, Frederick	Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.	Nussey, Thomas Willians
Channing, Francis Allston	Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)	O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Jacoby, James Alfred	O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Clough, Walter Owen	Joicey, Sir James	Oldroyd, Mark
Colville, John	Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)	O'Malley, William
Condon, Thomas Joseph	Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)	Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
Crilly, Daniel	Kearley, Hudson E.	Palmer, George Win. (Reading)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	Kilbride, Denis	Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Dalziel, James Henry	Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth	Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)	Lambert, George	Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs, SW)
Davitt, Michael	Langley, Batty	Power, Patrick Joseph
Dewar, Arthur	Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land	Price, Robert John
Dillon, John	Leese, Sir Jos. F. (Accrington)	Priestley, Briggs (Yorks)
Donelan, Captain A.	Leng, Sir John	Randell, David
Doogan, P. C.	Leuty, Thomas Richmond	Reckitt, Harold James
Duckworth, James	Lewis, John Herbert	Rickett, J. Compton

Mr. Samuel Evans.

Roberts, John H. (Denbighsh.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles

Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Walton, John Law (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)

NOES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Right Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Baillie, J. E. B. (Inverness)
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Man.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. S. (Hunts)
 Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Benrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Beresford, Lord Charles
 Bhowmaggree, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, Janies
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddlington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colombe, Sir J. Charles Ready
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.

Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chat'm)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas, Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
 Fergusson, Lt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Fin. h. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus (Frederick)
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cams.)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence

Wilson, Hy. J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hud'sfield)
 Woods, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur.

Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Heaton, John Hemiker
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hernion-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. L. R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houston, R. P.
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James H. Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lauri, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonberry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. William E. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset.)
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swan.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Ersk.
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool.)
 Lopes, Henry Yardle Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Maedona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Millbank, Sir Powlett Cha. John
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount

Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monm'thsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkinson, R. (Lancs, Newton
 Platt Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles

Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Linehouse)
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, J. P. (Lanarkshire)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hn. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: My object in moving this Amendment is to bring the Bill into conformity with Standing Order No. 45. If this Amendment is accepted, I propose at a later stage to move a new clause, which I have handed in, providing for the precise duration of the Act. This being only a temporary Bill, during the continuation of the Agricultural Rating Act, it is a measure of a temporary character, and certainly falls within the provisions of Standing Order No. 45. I know it will be argued that the Agricultural Rating Act did not comply with the Standing Orders. I do not see, because an oversight occurred in that Act, that it should be taken as a precedent. If we have Standing Orders, for Heaven's sake let us obey them. This Standing Order was passed in the year 1849, and I presume it was passed for some good and sufficient reason. I do not want the discussion on the Committee stage prolonged, and I will not delay the Committee from coming to a decision.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 7, to leave out from the word 'half' to the end of the clause."—(Mr. David Thomas.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. LONG: I understand the hon. Gentleman moves this Amendment in order to establish his contention that the first clause of the Bill is not in accordance with the Standing Order. Whether the clause is or is not in accordance with the Standing Order, rests with a higher authority than myself. This Bill was drawn with a full knowledge of the provisions of that Standing Order, and every possible step was taken by the framers of the Bill to see that the Standing Order was complied with. I want to point out to the hon. Gentleman that he is adopting a form of Amendment which would be, to say the least of it, extremely inconvenient. He proposes to remove the words which contain the date when the Act will come into force. It is absolutely necessary that the date should be stated when the new rating system comes into operation.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I have provided for that by a new clause.

MR. LONG: Yes, but I am dealing with the hon. Member's Amendment as it stands. Whether he would be able afterwards to secure the introduction of other words is a totally different thing, which we cannot discuss at the present time. It is sufficient for me, as the Minister in charge of the Bill, to say that every step

necessary was taken in order to procure that the framing of the Bill was in compliance with the Standing Orders.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: As a point of order, Mr. Lowther, I wish to ask you whether the Bill is in compliance with the Standing Order.

its present state was referred to the Committee. If there was anything improper in the shape of the Bill, objection ought to have been taken before the Bill was referred to the Committee. The Second Reading of the Bill cures any defect.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That is not a question for me to decide. The Bill in

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 274; Noes, 152. (Division List, No. 261.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden	Compton, Lord Alwyne	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Allsopp, Hon. George	Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Arnold, Alfred	Cox, Irwin Edward B.	Hanson, Sir Reginald
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Cripps, Charles Alfred	Hardy, Laurence
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Hare, Thomas Leigh
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy	Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)	Heaton, John Henniker
Bailey, James (Walworth)	Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Helder, Augustus
Bailie, James E. B. (Inverness)	Curzon, Viscount	Henderson, Alexander
Baird, John George Alexander	Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh	Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Balcarres, Lord	Dalkeith, Earl of	Hill, Sir Edwd. Stock (Bristol)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampste'd)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)	Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Hobhouse, Henry
Banbury, Frederick George	Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Hornby, Sir William Henry
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Smith (Hunts	Dixon-Hartland, Sir Frd. Dixon	Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)	Dorington, Sir John Edward	Houston, R. P.
Bartley, George C. T.	Doughty, George	Howell, William Tudor
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin	Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Doxford, William Theodore	Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Beckett, Ernest William	Drucker, A.	Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Elliott, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas	Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Beresford, Lord Charles	Fardell, Sir T. George	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.	Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Bigwood, James	Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc')	Kemp, George
Bill, Charles	Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)	Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Finch, George H.	Kenyon, James
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Firbank, Joseph Thomas	Kimber, Henry
Bousfield, William Robert	Fisher, William Hayes	King, Sir Henry Seymour
Brassay, Albert	Fison, Frederick William	Lafone, Alfred
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Flower, Ernest	Laurie, Lieut. General
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Bullard, Sir Harry	Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)	Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Burdett-Coutts, W.	Galloway, William Johnson	Lecky, Rt. Hn. William E. H.
Butcher, John George	Gedge, Sydney	Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Carlile, William Walter	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.	Leighton, Stanley
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.)	Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)	Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Gilliat, John Saunders	Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'nssea
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick	Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Wore's)	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
Charrington, Spencer	Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St George	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Chelsea, Viscount	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Lorne, Marquess of
Clare, Octavius Leigh	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Lowe, Francis William
Clarke, Sir E. (Plymouth)	Graham, Henry Robert	Lowles, John
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Coddington, Sir William	Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'ry)	Lucas-Shadwell, William
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)	Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Gretton, John	Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Greville, Hon. Ronald	Macdona, John Cumming
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.	Gull, Sir Cameron	MacIver, David (Liverpool)

M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett C. John
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hon. F. (Monm'thsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Rich. (Lanes, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert

Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l)
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matt. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Ed. J.
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley

Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Un.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemaeche, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell. (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Younger, William
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asher, Alexander
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crilly, Daniel
 Crombie, John William
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)

Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Owen Morgan
 Ellis, John Edward
 Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)
 Everhard, Sydney
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. M. (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Gurdon, Sir Win. Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmore (Swansea)
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)

Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 MacAlee, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. MA. (Queen's C)
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare

Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs. SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Scott Ch. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edward (Staf.)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)

Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfars.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamor., E.)
 Walton, John Law. (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway

Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudders.)
 Woods, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

SELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Mr. D. A. Thomas and Mr.
 Samuel Evans.

' Question put, "That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill." | The Committee divided :—Ayes, 270 ; Noes, 155. (Division List, No. 262.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, Janus (Walworth)
 Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manc'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Rt Hn A. H. Smith-(Hts.)
 Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt Hn Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Benmrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Beresford, Lord Charles
 Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonson, Henry Co-mo Orme
 Boscowen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. Birn.
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clarke, Sir Edwd. (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.

Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Coloumb, Sir J. Charles Ready
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, H. Shepherd (Bol on)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. D.
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. R. Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Ferguson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manch)
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of Lon)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.

Goschen, Rt Hn G. J. (St George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'y)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hn. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houston, R. P.
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Hy. Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
 Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Kimber, Henry
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Ed. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'ns.) a.

Lockwood, Lieut.-Colonel A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. John
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'tsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Dept'f d.)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford

O'Neil, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs. Newton
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limeloune)
 Sandys, Lt. Col. Thos. Myles
 Saunderson, Rt. Hon. Col. E. J.
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sibebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes Cox, Thomas
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)

Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Ward, Hon. Robt. A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birn.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke d'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks., E.)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asher, Alexander
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caitness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crilly, Daniel
 Crombie, John William
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)

Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Owen Morgan
 Ellis, John Edward
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John

Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swan.)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sir U.
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Kinloch, Sir J. George Smyth
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'lnd)
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 MacAleeze, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'n's C)
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John

Maddison, Fred
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morley, Rt. Hon. John (Montrose)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Palmer, Geo. Wm. (Reading)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickersgill, Edward H.
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph

Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)

Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Nott.)
 Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hud'sfield)
 Woods, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur

New Clause :—

*MR. LEWIS: The object of the new Clause I now propose is to exempt Wales from the operation of the Bill. I observe some of my colleagues have put down Amendments to a similar effect, and if my hon. friend the Member for Merthyr intends to move his Amendment, I am quite willing to accept the latter part of his clause, for I do not desire that Wales should lose any benefit to which it might otherwise be entitled under this Bill. We certainly should prefer that any money which Wales may have to pay under this Bill should be devoted to some educational purpose. There are plenty of Parliamentary precedents for dealing with Wales separately, so I need not labour that point. We have had a Sunday Closing Bill for Wales, and a Welsh Intermediate Education Bill which no one would now desire to see repealed; indeed, so beneficial has one of those Acts proved, that proposals have been made by a Royal Commission for extending it. But there are some Acts from which Wales would be gladly excluded, owing to the opinions of the majority of the population, and this is one of them. We have heard a good deal since last Monday of the injustice that this Bill will inflict upon other parts of the United Kingdom. That injustice is especially marked in the case of Wales. The Welsh nation is a nation of Nonconformists, and therefore the passing of this Act would be especially unjust to Wales. Welsh Nonconformists consider that the tithe at the present time is entirely misappropriated, and they hold that it should be applied to purely national purposes. They ob-

ject to what they deem to be national property being paid into the coffers of one sect, and they think it is only adding a further injustice to relieve one particular class of the community at the expense of the nation generally. I have observed that hon. Gentlemen opposite representing Welsh constituencies have voted steadily, and with an almost pathetic fidelity, with the Government on most of the stages of this Bill. I see one or two of them who represent urban constituencies in South Wales, and I do not envy them the task of presenting to their constituents the case for this Bill. I have no doubt they will do it as ably and effectively as it can be done; they will make the best case for the most wretched Bill that was ever brought before this House; but still, at the same time, I have confidence as to what would be the result of an appeal to their constituents on this particular Bill. In the last Parliament we had no less than thirty-one out of thirty-four Welsh members pledged to redress the great injustice which the existence of religious inequality in the Principality entails. It is true that in this Parliament we have not so large a majority, but still there are twenty-five of us as against nine. You are forcing a measure down the throats of a people who, by twenty-five votes to nine, have declared their opposition to the kind of Bill you are now introducing—a measure which they view as a great act of injustice. Over and over again in the course of these Debates it has been asserted that this Bill is based on justice, but do you think it is right to make the Nonconformists of Wales, the people who have been doing the major

part of the religious and spiritual work in that country during the past generation, to pay out of their own hard earnings a still further addition to the tithe in Wales? I ask the House is that justice to the country, a portion of which I represent? As the Committee is aware the tithe question has been a burning question in Wales in the past, and hundreds and thousands of farmers have undergone very severe pains and penalties rather than pay the tithe. The payment has been enforced, not merely by tithe bailiffs and emergency men, but also by the military forces of the Crown, and the Welsh Nonconformists have been made to feel a galling yoke. Thousands of people have been sold up rather than pay the tithe voluntarily, and these are the very men upon whom you are throwing an additional burden. I have spoken of them as the people who have been doing the spiritual work of the country. Let me give an instance—a parish which is typical of hundreds of other parishes in Wales. It is a large and populous parish. During the last few years mining centres have sprung up in different parts of it. There was one church in a small hamlet in a thinly populated part of the parish, and to the services of that church many hundreds of pounds of tithes were devoted annually. The rest of the tithe probably went into the coffers of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. What did the Church do in that parish? It maintained out of the money contributed by the tithe-payers, chiefly Nonconformists, one Church for a few people. What did the Nonconformists do in the populous mining and quarrying villages? They made religious provision for the inhabitants; they provided Sunday services for people who would otherwise have been altogether destitute of religious ministrations. That continued for a long time, and then the Ecclesiastical Commissioners provided another church. There are hundreds of country parishes in which there is one church attended by a small handful of people, but in which by far the greater portion of spiritual work is done by Nonconformists, who have no endowment in the shape of tithe to rely upon. The work has been done from first to last on the voluntary principle because their hearts were in it. They have provided theological colleges for the education of ministers. They have provided populous churchless places with

ministers, and in places where there has been no minister there has been an energetic and devoted diaconate ready to conduct Sunday and week night services, to visit the sick, and to look after the religious training of the young. These are the people who have again and again declared against the Church Establishment and against the application of tithes to the support of the Church, and these are the people whom you are going to fine for the benefit of the clergy. I think our position was very well defined by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham when he said that the great principle of religious equality was everywhere slowly undermining the fabric of ecclesiastical privilege. Yet you are now building up a fabric of ecclesiastical privilege. The right hon. Gentleman told us further that this principle of religious equality was fatal to all State Churches, and that it would surely be applied to the Church in England, Scotland, and Wales. He further went on to point out the sentiment of the people of the Principality was more unanimous and the anomalies of the present arrangement were more striking and irritating in Wales than elsewhere, and it had, therefore, the first claim to their sympathy and support in its efforts to free itself from a burden which recent events, and especially the tithe agitation, had shown to be almost intolerable to the vast majority of the population. Yet you are now proposing to add to that burden. Let us see what the Nonconformists have been doing in Wales. In 1775 there were only 171 Nonconformist congregations, in 1816 the number had increased to 993, and in 1861 it was 2,927, while in 1892 it has risen to 4,262. More than 3,000 Nonconformist places of worship have been built in Wales within the last eighty years. In 1859 the communicants belonging to the four leading Welsh denominations numbered 258,000; in 1892 they had increased to 381,000, an addition of 47½ per cent. Now Wales is a small country, and these figures show that Nonconformity has increased very rapidly. I remember that when this subject was last mentioned in the House, the hon. Baronet the Member for Swansea drew attention to the increase of churches in the Rhondda Valley, that being the best example of progress the Establishment has to present in Wales. What are the facts in regard to

that? In the year 1866 there were in this Valley four churches and eleven chapels; in 1870 there were seven churches and twenty-one chapels; in 1884 there were eleven churches and ninety-eight chapels; and in 1892 the figures showed sixteen churches and 117 chapels. And that is in the very heart of Wales, where the Church prides itself on the progress it has made. Now I would remind the Committee that this is only a temporary Bill. It is only to last for two years, and I do not think that, in the course of those two years, the positions of the Church and Nonconformity are likely to be altered relatively to any material extent. I wish to ask the Government is there any limit whatever to their desire to force measures of this kind upon Wales? We have asked for measures in which the Welsh people are interested, but every request of that kind has been refused, no matter how reasonable it may have been. We do not ask for this Bill; we only ask to be exempted from its operation, and surely that is a reasonable demand on our part. I hope that hon. Gentlemen will not allow their hostility to Welsh Nonconformity to carry them beyond due bounds. They have a large majority; let them use it with mercy. Of course, if they choose to refuse every request that is made by the representatives of Wales, I can only warn them that the time is coming when the people of Wales will again vote against them with practical unanimity.

New clause (Extent of Act)—(*Mr. Lewis*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the clause be read a second time.”

SIR R. B. FINLAY: The hon. Gentleman who moved this Amendment has spoken with much feeling of the work done by Welsh Nonconformists. I can assure him that he is mistaken in supposing there is on this side of the House any feeling of hostility towards Nonconformity in Wales. But there was one omission which I did note in his speech, and that was that he made no reference to the excellent work which has also been done by the Church of Wales. After all, we are not engaged upon a Disestablishment Bill. I am not going to follow the hon. Gentleman in that portion of his speech, although I shall be prepared when the occasion arises to deal with that

question. This Bill cannot be converted into a means of discussing the propriety of keeping up the Established Church in Wales, and everyone will agree that, as long as that Established Church exists, and as long as the clergyman in Wales is paid out of the tithe rent-charge, his grievance is exactly the same as that of his English brother. There is no possible difference. He does the same work, he is paid in the same way, and he has the same unjust burdens inflicted on him. We have decided that those burdens are unjust, and I confess it strikes me that this Amendment trenches most seriously upon the work which this Committee has already done. We have passed the first clause, providing that the owner of tithe rent-charge attached to a benefice shall be relieved of one-half of his rates, and really it would have been better if the attempt to exclude Wales had been made when that clause was under consideration. This is an endeavour to go back upon what the Committee has already decided. With regard to the proposal that no deduction shall be made from the sums payable to local authorities in Wales and Monmouthshire on account of the Estate Duty Grant, by reason of the passing of this Act, I think the hon. Member will see on reflection that he is mistaken in the idea that this money is taken directly from the Welsh ratepayers. As a matter of fact it is taken out of the sum which would otherwise go into the Local Taxation Account, and the burden is distributed over the whole country in a manner which we spent the greater part of yesterday in discussing. It is not a burden which is specially and exclusively inflicted on Wales. If I understand the latter part of the Amendment aright, it is proposed that there should be a modification of the Local Government Act, 1888, and that there should be an addition made to the sum given to each Welsh county. But we have already decided how the money required under this Bill is to be obtained, and I respectfully ask the Committee not to undo the work it did yesterday.

*MR. J. H. ROBERTS: I do not propose to detain the Committee many minutes, for I think the action of the representatives of Wales has been shown with sufficient vigour during these Debates. I should like, however, to say a few words in reply to the speech we have just listened to. I have not a single word to

say against the Welsh clergy, but I will point out that, owing to the circumstances in which they are placed in regard to their religious work in Wales, it is absolutely impossible for them to do for Wales what is being done by their fellow clergy in England and elsewhere. What I wish to point out is that, whereas in England the country as a whole will subscribe to the carrying out of the financial proposals of this Bill, the same thing has to be done in Wales with this difference, that in England the feeling may not be so very strong against this Bill financially, whereas the feeling in Wales is overwhelmingly against it. There are two or three practical considerations to which I wish to direct the attention of the Committee. First of all, the financial position of Wales is not that of England. I do not say that Wales is a poor country, but it is much poorer than England, and less able to bear the burden which this Bill imposes. I will give the Committee two or three facts with regard to that point. In England income tax is paid at the rate of £6 4s. 2d. per head, whereas in Wales it is only £4 8s. 10d. In 1890, under Schedule D, England paid at the rate of £10 1s. 2d., and Wales at only £4 18s., or less than half. The next practical consideration is that the local authorities in Wales have made good use of the money handed to them through the Local Taxation Account. I do not suppose there is a single set of county councils which has so effectually and usefully expended the money at their command for the education and higher interests of the country than the Welsh County Councils. Further I would remind the Committee that the amount received from Treasury subventions in Wales is not as great as it is in England. In England the rate of 7½d. per head; in Wales in 1890 it was only 5½d. The third point that I desire to make has reference to what has been done by Nonconformists in Wales. I do not know whether the Committee realises the extent of the sacrifices which the Nonconformists of Wales have made, and are prepared to make, for the higher interests of the country. In Wales the Welsh Presbyterians subscribed during last year nearly £250,000 for various religious purposes, and they are only one out of the four Nonconformist sects in Wales. Is it not strange, therefore, that this miserable pittance provided by the Bill should have

to be paid by the general tax-payers of the country towards further increasing the endowment of the clergy of the Church of England? Further, with regard to the Welsh clergy, I believe, if I have not misread their character, that they will not personally welcome the financial proposals of this Bill. It must be remembered that the position of the Nonconformist Church in Wales is an essential factor in the Bill now before us. I wish to reiterate the point mentioned by my hon. friend, that the Established Church in Wales is in a decided minority: that it is the church of the rich, and that it has in the past ranged itself against the national aspirations of the country. That is an historical fact. On the other hand, we have the exceptional position occupied by the Nonconformists. They embrace the large majority of the people of the country, and they have also identified themselves very closely during the last fifty years with every effort to advance the higher interests of the country. Although I know this Bill is bound to pass, it remains the fact that the overwhelming feeling in Wales is against it. If it is unjust, as I believe it is to England, it is far more unjust to Wales. I myself am driven to the conclusion year by year that you will not be able to legislate in harmony with the feeling of the people of Wales until we have some fundamental change in the machinery of Parliament, and I am convinced that such a change must be made before Wales can realise her just aspirations. I beg to support the new clause.

MR. HUMPHREYS OWEN: I appeal to the right hon. Gentleman opposite to have some consideration for the people of Wales. You are imposing on Wales this Bill against which the Welsh people emphatically protest. It is a measure to subsidise the Church of England, and anybody who has the least acquaintance with Welsh social and political life knows perfectly well that one of the great causes of estrangement between Welshmen and Englishmen is the existence of the Established Church in Wales. This proposal may be said to be a somewhat small one and to affect a meritorious class, but small as it is it is none the less irritating. We ourselves complained not long ago against the policy of pin-pricks. This is something more than a pin-prick, because it is opposed to the national sentiment of the country, which has declared itself fully

Mr. J. H. Roberts.

and emphatically against it. By this Bill you are, at the cost of Nonconformists and Churchmen alike, giving relief to the clergy of the Church of England. It is the Church of the rich, and in parish after parish in Wales you will find that the only persons who attend the church are the parson and his family and one or two country gentlemen. The Solicitor-General said that this was not a Disestablishment Debate. But Disestablishment is nevertheless somewhat involved in what we are doing to-night. It is perfectly true that in agricultural districts a considerable portion of the money required will come, not from the country districts, but from the towns; but, for all that, the country districts will still have to pay.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is straying from the point.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN: I was only replying to an argument on the other side, but I will not pursue it. Another argument of the Solicitor-General was that the clergy grievance is the same in England and in Wales. We say that by the methods you are adopting you may remedy a clergy grievance, but you are creating a ratepayers' grievance, and therefore you are only shifting the burden. In Wales that grievance will be felt much more strongly than in England, because of the strong hostility between the Church of England and the other denominations. Now, I wish to make an appeal to Churchmen on the other side. Do they think they are really aiding the cause of the Church of England in supporting this Bill?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must call the hon. Member's attention to the fact that the only question before the Committee is whether Wales should or should not be exempt from this Bill.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN: I was trying, I am afraid imperfectly, to bring forward reasons why Wales should be exempt, and I will conclude my remarks by an appeal to Churchmen, in the interests of the Church of England, to grant the concession asked for by this clause.

SIR WILLIAM HAROURT: The reasons why this Amendment has been moved have been stated so fully and so well by several Members representing Welsh constituencies that it is not necessary for me, with less perfect knowledge,

to go into them at length. Nobody can deny that this is a very reasonable and important Amendment. I am supporting it, politically speaking, very much against my own views, if I have any Party feeling in the matter. That which I should most desire is that this Amendment should be rejected, for I do not know anything that would have a greater effect in eradicating the tares which have been sown in the Liberal wheat in Wales. From that point of view the rejection of the Amendment would be advantageous. It is absolutely impossible that this Government could have proposed a measure which could be more bitterly opposed by the great majority of the people of Wales. The majority of the Welsh people are attached to Nonconformity. That will not be denied for a moment. Hitherto it has been the boast of the Church of England that it relied on its own pecuniary resources. But now for the first time a demand is made on the general taxpayer, who has no particular connection with the Church, to subsidise the clergy of the Established Church. That is an entirely new feature in the relations between the Church and the population, and the Church will no longer be able to say, like the Nonconformist denominations, that it costs nothing to the people. My opinion is that this is an act of injustice generally, but above all it is an act of special injustice to such a population as that of Wales. I have no desire to go into all the considerations which certainly, I think, ought to give the Committee pause before passing such a measure as this against the will of the Welsh people. Never was a measure designed by the Imperial Parliament which has more wantonly and more unjustly irritated the sentiments of the Welsh people, and for that reason I shall heartily support the clause.

MR. LONG: The right hon. Gentleman has appealed to us on behalf of Wales not to include Wales in this Bill. I am bound to say I am surprised at the grounds on which the right hon. Gentleman supported the claim made by the Welsh Members. The right hon. Gentleman has referred, as several hon. Members have referred, to the position of the Established Church in Wales, and to the power of the Nonconformists. As my hon. and learned friend said earlier in the evening, nobody here is prepared or desires to contest in the smallest degree

the efforts made by Nonconformity in Wales for the progress of Christianity and education. On the contrary we desire heartily to endorse them. That, however is not a question which is germane to the discussion. The right hon. Gentleman, if he desired to support the case of Wales for exemption, ought at least to have shown that the Welsh clerical tithe-owner does not suffer under those disabilities which have been established over and over again during these Debates to exist with regard to clerical tithe-owners in England. Hon. Gentlemen opposite have not attempted to show that there is any other ratepayer whose liability is the same as the clerical owner of tithe or who pays in the same proportion for local expenses. It is rather late in the day now to contest that. It is perfectly well known that the position of the owner of clerical tithe in Wales is not in any degree different from that of the owner of tithe rent-charge in England. No argument has been advanced against that, and that being the case I submit that no ground whatever has been made out for the acceptance of this clause. The Committee has already decided that a certain amount of rate should be repaid, and that a sum should be found from a particular source, and I submit that to exempt Wales on the ground that Nonconformity is in the majority, or that the Established Church is in a minority, or that sectarian differences of opinion, which I hope and believe are subsiding, exist is to make an unreasonable proposition which I hope the Committee will reject.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS : The right hon. Gentleman who has just spoken has talked about a subject of which he knows very little. ("No, no.") I do not suppose for a moment that the right hon. Gentleman will contend that he is an authority on ecclesiastical matters in Wales. I have already paid my tribute to the right hon. Gentleman on his conduct of this Bill, but as regards Wales he is not to be regarded as an authority at all. Without going over the ground so excellently traversed by my hon. friends, and so admirably dealt with by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, I will deal with the matter from a somewhat different standpoint. The case against the Bill does not merely depend upon the injustice of making Wales subscribe out of the taxation of the country for an alien church. If anything, it is still more unjust that

the Welsh people should be called upon not merely to contribute to the Church in Wales, but also to contribute very largely to the maintenance of the Church in England. I desire to protest against these public moneys being given to the support of the Church in the Principality, but I still more strongly protest against taking public money out of the pockets of the Welsh tax-payers to support the Church in England. Now, the case lies in a nutshell. The parochial incumbents in Wales do not receive a very large amount of tithe. I believe it will be admitted that, on the whole, the Welsh clergyman has a smaller living on the average than the English clergyman. The whole amount of the tithe rent-charge in the twelve counties of the Principality is £237,000. Therefore, the sum given under this Bill, proportionately speaking, to the Welsh clergymen is not very large. I think the whole sum amounts to something like £8,000. Twelve counties in England, however, receive in tithe rent-charge exactly ten times as much as the twelve in the Principality. So far as the individual clergyman is concerned, I do not think that many of us on this side of the House would object to the Welsh clergyman having the money. The individual parson in Wales is not a very unpopular person. He is rendered unpopular by reason of the fact that the Establishment is against him, but individually he is regarded as rather a good fellow. Hon. Members who know Wales best can testify to the fact that if there is a worthless son or scallywag he is sent to the Church, and, as a rule, on that very ground he is a very good fellow individually. Whatever you may say about Welsh clergymen, they are really not half as bad beggars as English clergymen are. They receive less money, and they do not complain. Moreover, the Welsh clergymen have not really asked for the money which you are going to give under this Bill. I am sure the hon. Gentleman the Member for Swansea will not get up and say that there has been anything like the demand for this relief among the Welsh clergy that we have seen exhibited in England. But if the Welsh Church is increasing, as has been stated, why do not its supporters maintain their own clergymen if their clergymen desire a better living? I doubt very much whether the House will see going into the Division Lobby in favour

of the Government and against this Amendment a single Member for a constituency in Wales. Those Gentleman dare not vote, if they desire to seek re-election, in favour of this Bill. I contend that a hardship arises not only because this money is taken from the pockets of the Welsh taxpayer for the benefit of the Welsh clergymen who are not asking for it, but that given is given in a much larger measure for the support of the clergy of the Church of England. I therefore hope we shall be perfectly solid in opposing the proposal of the Government.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Glamorganshire, Rhondda): In rising at this hour of the morning my only reason is that I want to enter my protest against any further endowment of the Church of England in Wales. Hon. and right hon. Members have said that Wales has no particular grounds of its own for rejecting this Bill. But allow me to say, Sir, that if there were but one, that one being that it is the Church of England in Wales, and not the Church of Wales in Wales, that is sufficiently differential to base upon the plea that it should not be forced upon the Principality. Some of my Welsh friends have urged the argument that the regrettable neglect by the Church of England of the interest of the Welsh people in Wales is a sufficient reason why this Bill should not be applied to Wales. To this I agree. And no one here cares to deny the facts, the historical facts regarding the neglect of the Church in Wales during this period. That regrettable fact is always kept green in the minds of the Welsh people that read the description given of that time by the hymnologist from Pantycelyn when he said—

“Pan oedd cymru gynt yn gonweder mein annwyl farwol hun Heb n' phrespirtar na Ffeirade Nac un Esgob ar ddilhun.”

(Loud laughter.) Hon. Members may laugh, but it is too true all the same. What further proof does this House need of the futility of the Church trying to teach the Welsh people religion in a foreign tongue than the fact that even hon. Members laugh at the very same tongue when now used? However, this is not the point I intended to urge upon the consideration of this House when I rose. I think that it is high time that this Debate was risen to a higher ground. The House, so far, has interested itself with what will be effect of this measure upon the mechanism of the Church; but I

want to know what effect it will have upon the Church as a moral power in the land. I have been waiting to hear whether some of my Welsh friends on the other side would have a word to say in defence of the real Church in this matter. I freely admit that the Church in Wales has done some good there, during the last decade especially. And I cannot help thinking that that good will be sorely impeded by the effect of this Bill. I freely admit that I did not think there was so much in this Bill until I heard the important statement made by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture when opposing the Amendment of the hon. gentleman the senior Member for Merthyr. He then said that if that Amendment was carried it would take away 50 per cent. of the funds available for the use of this Bill. If that be the case, and that 50 per cent. of the money for the relief of the clergy is going to come out of a fund which goes to the relief of the poor, what is to become of the relationship between the clergy—the incumbent, the vicar, and especially the curate—that administer to the poor, and the poor which they administer to? One of the great dignitaries of the Church said only the other day “that the people, and especially the poor among the people, should understand and feel that the Church existed for them.” If, then, the clergy were going to curtail their contributions to the poor fund to the tune of between £40,000 and £50,000, would they expect the poor in the land to believe any longer that those clergy had any sympathy with them? If, then, the effect of this Bill will be to kill that good feeling between the clergy in the Church and the poor people which they administer to, what will become of the Church—the real moral power of that Church upon the poor which it professes to exist for? Cannot hon. and right hon. Members see that one of the direct effects of this must be to destroy the influence of the Church as a moral power in the land? I would, therefore, appeal to hon. Members for Wales to support this Amendment for the sake of the Church itself. And I would ask them, as members of the Church and its advocates in Wales, to well consider, before casting their votes in this matter, whether it is the interest of the clergy in the Church or the Church itself, including its poor, they are here to defend.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I very much regret that the Members of the Government have not thought fit to tackle the arguments which have been advanced by hon. Members for Wales in favour of this motion. The Solicitor-General objected to the Amendment on purely technical grounds, but surely this matter is far too important to be put aside by the raising of mere technicalities. It is a matter of justice to the whole of the people of the Principality, and a mere technical argument is not a sufficient answer. The President of the Board of Agriculture said that the mere fact that a vast majority of the Welsh people were opposed to the Establishment altogether was a perfectly irrelevant argument. But surely he cannot say that. We pay annually something like £300,000 to the Church out of our national endowment, and the Government come down, in spite of our protest, and say, "We ask you people in Wales to add to that endowment by £8,000 a year." That is a very unfair thing to do. They have excluded Ireland and they have excluded Scotland from the operation of the Bill, but every argument that can be advanced for excluding Ireland and Scotland can also be advanced for excluding Wales. This arrangement is repudiated by the vast majority of the Welsh people. A Welsh nobleman has written a letter within the last few days in which he says that, though a supporter of the Government, he has subscribed quite enough already to the Church of England in Wales, and will not subscribe a single penny piece more towards maintaining a Church whose doctrines are hostile to the Reformation. And yet the people of Wales, four-fifths of whom disbelieve the doctrines of the Church root and branch, are called upon to subscribe, not £50 or £100, but £8,000 a year towards the maintenance of this Church. Surely that is a monstrous proposition, especially in the present state of the Church of England in Wales and outside. I have not heard in the course of this Debate that the main principle laid down by hon. Members for Wales has been challenged, namely, that the vast majority of the people disavow the services of the Church. I submit that that is a very relevant consideration. What is the ground on which this Bill has been introduced? One is that it is for professional services rendered. Who, in Wales, has called for those services? Who wants

them? The people say, "We don't want the services." Why should they be called upon to pay for them? How many people came before the Commission to represent the people of Wales? The only layman was the hon. Member for Tunbridge, but he is not a Welsh member. The hon. Member comes from Denbighshire. He toils night and day for the promotion of the interests of our National Church—of the National Church of the Welsh people, so we are told. And yet he has not been able to find a single seat in Wales to return him as a member! (Interruption.) Yes, the hon. Member has not tried, because he knows perfectly well he has not the remotest chance. If his views commended themselves to the people of Denbighshire, where he resides, surely with his ability he would have found a seat in that particular county. And who is the other witness who came before this Commission? He is a Welsh rector. What is his case? He is paid net tithe amounting to £279 2s. 2d. The whole population of his parish is about 450. Four-fifths of the population attend the Calvinistic Methodist place of worship, and very few of the rest ever attend the parish church. Here is a gentleman who is receiving £279 for his services for the whole of the parish, whilst the minister of the real parish church—the minister who attends to four-fifths of the population—is not paid one-half that this gentleman is paid. And yet the rector comes and says, "It is true I do not minister to this population, it is true that I only do one-fifth of the work for which I am paid, but I ask that you should give me a rise in my salary." It is exactly as if the Local Government Board were to impose a medical officer upon a particular district, and, in spite of the fact that the district did not want his services, did not believe in him, and preferred to pay their own doctor, were obliged to appoint him, and give him an increase of salary. Something has been said about hon. Members for Wales who sit on the opposite side. A short time ago the Leader of the Conservative party in Wales was in the House, but not a word has he said in support of this proposal. I should like to know what he has to say about this Amendment. I see the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham also present. There was a time when he raised his powerful voice in favour of the Welsh people, and when he insisted upon having their grievances redressed in regard to the Church;

and yet he is now a member of a Government which seeks to aggravate that grievance, and to impose an additional tax of £8,000 in favour of the Church which he himself once regarded as a source of one of the greatest grievances of the Welsh people. I think we can appeal to him at any rate to put in one word in favour of the people of Wales in this matter. I venture to appeal to the Government, having exempted Ireland from the provisions of the Bill, and having exempted Scotland, to exempt Wales. We are asking nothing which is unfair. The Government have a perfectly loyal and law-abiding

population to deal with, but instead of redressing their grievances they aggravate and intensify them by proposals of this character.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: May I correct one figure? I gave the sum of £8,000 as being the amount of the tax made upon Wales in regard to this Bill. That figure, I believe, is more accurately stated at something under £6,000.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 120; Noes, 233. (Division List, No. 263.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Barlow, John Ennott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crilly, Daniel
Crombie, John William
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davitt, Michael
Dewar, Arthur
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Ellis, John Edward
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Evans, Sir F. H. (S'hampton)
Evershed, Sydney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. M. (Leith)
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)

Goddard, Daniel Frod
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Leuty, Thomas Richmond
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Logan, John William
Lough, Thomas
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. M.A. (Queen's C)
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Ewan, William
M'Ghee, Richard
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)

Oldroyd, Mark
O'Malley, William
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs, SW)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Randell, David
Reckett, Harold James
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinzon
Spicer, Albert
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles Stevenson, Francis S.
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd Woods, Samuel.
Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. M'Arthur

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Förster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)

Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith (Hunts)
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Beresford, Lord Charles
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.

Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousor, Henry Cosmo Orme
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Ballard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter

Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Wore'r)
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Dou glas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin Edward (Bainbridge Cross, Alexander (Glasgow))
 Cross, Herl. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. H. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lnd.)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (S.G'rge's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, Walford D. (W'dnesbury)
 Greene, W. R. - (Cams.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick

Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houston, R. P.
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Kimber, Henry
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Edw. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swan.)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool.)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett C. John
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monm'thsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham

Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'l.)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, James P. ((Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lanca.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Ward, Hn. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. DALZIEL: I rise to move a motion on behalf of the officials of the House, most of whom have now been on duty fourteen hours. It was never intended that we should sit all night. That is not

the usual interpretation of the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule; it was never intended to sit longer than a reasonable time, and have we not on the present occasion sat long enough? There are still

several important clauses to be dealt with, and I beg to move that progress be reported and the Debate be adjourned.

Motion made and Question proposed—

“That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again.”—(Mr. Dalziel.)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not propose to enter into any recriminatory matter. I would merely point out that although it is perfectly true that the inconvenience caused to all concerned is considerable, some hon. Members on the Opposition side insist upon obstructing the business, and there is no help but to sit on. This afternoon since four o'clock we have discussed a definition clause, a clause dealing with the title of the Bill, and a clause saying when it is to come into operation, and we have been discussing those three clauses ten hours.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I regret the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House will not accede so reasonable a request. When we move Amendments he will not discuss them. As for the amount of work we have done to-night, we have passed three clauses, and in no single case in the time of the last Liberal Government were so many clauses passed at one sitting owing to the tactics of the Opposition. I ask the right hon. Gentleman most earnestly to listen to the appeal of my hon. friend.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am personally no advocate of long sittings nor of delaying proceedings, and I am bound to say I do not think my hon. friend is unreasonable in asking the Government whether they intend to make the House sit until the rest of the Bill is dealt with. If that is their intention I protest against it. This is not an ordinary Bill; it is merely another added to the many instances I have known of dealing with a Bill before this House in any way but the straightforward way. All the ingenious devices which have been invented do not further the business at all. This Bill is known to be a most objectionable Bill to a large section of the House and country. There is tremendous feeling against it on this side of the House and on the Government side, and Conservative candidates who have stood in the country have repudiated it. I am bound to say I do not think it is respectful to the House for the First Lord

of the Treasury to set himself against every Amendment for the purpose of avoiding a discussion on the Report stage, though no doubt it is a clever proceeding. Surely now he is not going to keep us here indefinitely? If he is, all we can do is to divide the House upon this motion, as a protest against such tactics.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I do think it is an unreasonable thing to ask Members to sacrifice their time and jeopardise their health in order that a measure not mentioned in the Queen's Speech should be forced through this House. The Government are acting most unreasonably in making these demands on the Committee and on private Members. Even if we are a minority, we are entitled to consideration. The Welsh Members have devoted to this matter attention and consideration which must have elicited admiration from all sides, while the Irish and Scotch Members have rendered what assistance they could in the Division Lobby. But to say that we shall be doing walking marches all night is an abuse of the power of a strong Government. I hope the Government will acknowledge the reasonableness of the proposal, and, instead of continuing this discussion at this hour, recognise that the Independent Members are entitled to some fair treatment, and ought not to be reduced to a condition of slavery, or at any rate called upon to bear the burdens of the Church Party by sacrificing their time, energy, and health.

MR. LAMBERT: I would venture to appeal to the right hon. Gentleman on behalf of the President of the Board of Agriculture. He has now gone out, doubtless, to seek a little well-deserved refreshment.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) rose in his place, and claimed to move, “That the Question be now put;” but the Chairman withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

MR. LAMBERT: He has been sitting in close attendance on this Bill, and I notice he is requested to attend at 11.45 this morning for the purpose of guiding his Lands Improvement Bill through the Standing Committee on Law. We have a great respect for the President of the Board of Agriculture, who is so interested

in his Department, and we would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to spare him this unnecessary sitting up in the small hours of the morning.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 107; Noes, 216. (Division List, No. 264.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)	Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.	Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs. SW)
Asher, Alexander	Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)	Power, Patrick Joseph
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Horniman, Frederick John	Price, Robert John
Barlow, John Emmott	Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.	Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)	Joicey, Sir James	Randell, David
Bills ^o , Alfred	Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)	Reckitt, Harold James
Birrell, Augustine	Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)	Rickett, J. Compton
Bolton, Thomas Dolling	Kilbride, Denis	Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Burns, John	Labouchere, Henry	Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Caldwell, James	Lambert, George	Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	Langley, Batty	Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Channing, Francis Alston	Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)	Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Leng, Sir John	Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarshie)
Colville, John	Leuty, Thomas Richmond	Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Condon, Thomas Joseph	Lewis, John Herbert	Sonttar, Robinson
Crilly, Daniel	Lloyd-George, David	Spicer, Albert
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow).	Logan, John William	Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	Lough, Thomas	Steadman, William Charles
Dalziel, James Henry	Macaleese, Daniel	Steer son, Francis S.
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)	MacDonnell, Dr MA (Queen's C.)	Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Davitt, Michael	McCrae, George	Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Donelan, Captain A.	McDermott, Patrick	Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Doogan, P. C.	McEwan, William	Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)	McGhee, Richard	Walton, John Lawson (Leeds S.)
Duckworth, James ^j	McKenna, Reginald	Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Dunn, Sir William	McLeod, John	Wedderburn, Sir William
Edwards, Owen Morgan	Maddison, Fred.	Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Ellis, John Edward	Maden, John Henry	Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)	Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand	Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
Evershed, Sydney	Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)	Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Fenwick, Charles	Morley, Charles (Breconshire)	Woodhouse Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)	Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)	Woods, Samuel
Flynn, James Christopher	Nussey, Thomas Willans	Yoxall, James Henry
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)	O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)	
Goddard, Daniel Ford	Oldroyd, Mark	
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William	Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)	TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-	Pickersgill, Edward Hare	Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. M'Arthur.

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus Hen. Eden	Brassey, Albert	Curzon, Viscount
Allsopp, Hon. George	Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Brookfield, A. Montagu	Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Bullard, Sir Harry	Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Arnold, Alfred	Burdett-Coutts, W.	Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Carlile, William Walter	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)	Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Doughty, George
Baird, John G. Alexander	Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Balcarres, Lord	Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.)	Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Doxford, William Theodore
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds)	Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)	Drucker, A.
Banbury, Frederick George	Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Charrington, Spencer	Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. S. (Hunts)	Chelsea, Viscount	Elliott, Hon. A. Ralph D.
Bartley, George C. T.	Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	Fardell, Sir T. George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Coddington, Sir William	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Finch, George H.
Beckett, Ernest William	Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready	Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Compton, Lord Alwyne	Fisher, William Hayes
Beresford, Lord Charles	Cornwallis, F. Stanley W.	Fison, Frederick William
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.	Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Galloway, William Johnson
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme	Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)	Gedge, Sydney
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Bousfield, William Robert		

Gibb, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Goschen, R. Hn. G. J. (St George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houston, R. P.
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James H. Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kemp, George
 Kenyon, James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Kimber, Henry
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Lees, Sir Elliot (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine

Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Loane, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Charles J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monmouthshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, C. J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'dl)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.

Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement (Molyneux)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Saunderson, Rt Hon Col Edw. J.
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Ward, Hon. R. A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-Wharton, Rt. Hon. Jno. Lloyd
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN: The Amendment I have to move is one which will commend itself to all Members. It is a very well recognised view that, in order to have purity in dealing with public money, it is important that you should identify the persons to whom the money should go. In this instance you are providing considerable sums of money from public funds for the relief of certain clergymen in different counties and county boroughs in England Wales. It is obvious that it is desirable that the expenditure of these sums of money, coming as they do entirely out of the funds at the disposal of the councils, should be scrutinised with the same minuteness as is applied by these bodies to expenditure of their ordinary funds. I have here the accounts of the county council of my own county, and to give a specimen of the careful way in

which the ratepayers are informed, not only of the amounts spent, but to whom they are given, I will give one or two items. There is an allowance of £1 15s. to a police-constable, 15s. to a lady, and £1 3s. 4d. to a P.C. Lewis, and so on. It is equally desirable that the clergy—who are public officers, now to receive distinct grants out of the public funds—should be shown in the same way in the accounts of the county councils from whom they receive the grants. I therefore move the Amendment.

New clause :—

"The Commissioners of Inland Revenue shall, not more than eight days after they have, under the provisions of this Act, paid any moneys in respect of any rate on tithe rent-charge, make out and forward to the council of the county borough or administrative county wherein the hereditaments out of which that

tithe rent-charge arises are situate, a certificate stating the amount of the payment and the name of the benefice to which the tithe rent-charge is attached." —(*Mr. Humphreys-Owen.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. LONG : The suggestion made in the proposed new clause is a very admirable one, but it is quite unnecessary; because, as a matter of fact, this information is conveyed at the present time, and a Return as far as possible made to Parliament in each case for the purposes of those interested. The county councils will obtain information in precisely the same way as they now obtain information in regard to other payments. It would be extremely inconvenient and entirely contrary to practice to cast a statutory obligation upon a Government Department to make these Returns. The information must be provided, and will be provided. The Return will be made in the ordinary course of things, and when moved for by an ordinary Member it would be granted as an unopposed Return. I must therefore ask the Committee to reject this clause.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): The right hon. Gentleman has altogether failed to see the real reason why this additional check is required. He says the matter is without precedent, but I am inclined to think that the whole of the first clause of this Bill, so far as the machinery is concerned, is without precedent, when one comes to consider how the matter will work out in practice from the point of view of the local government authorities. The Bill says:

"The remaining half shall, on demand being made by the collector of rates on the Surveyor of Taxes for the district, be paid by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue out of the sums payable by them to the Local Taxation Account."

The reason my hon. friend desires that there should be within eight days a communication from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to the County Council, is to see that there is nothing irregular, either on the part of the tithe-owner, the collector of rates, or the Surveyor of Taxes. It is useless to tell us that if we desire to see that the Act is applied with absolute accuracy we may correct the matter about twelve months after the

transaction by asking for a Return in Parliament, which everybody knows we cannot get unless the Government of the day happen to consent to it. I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that the mover of this clause is actuated purely and solely by the desire to get the measure into working shape, and to prevent any irregularities whatsoever.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS : Under this Bill the Commissioners of Inland Revenue are to be called upon to pay, not to the county to which it belongs, or ought to belong, but to somebody else, a large sum of money. Is it unfair to ask that the county council should be informed of what has become of this money? There could not be a more reasonable or necessary Amendment than this proposed new clause. The right hon. Gentleman said there is no precedent for such a course. That cannot be so. Constantly, in Irish and in English Acts of Parliament, you have an obligation put upon public bodies to make Returns to Parliament, and Returns are constantly made. We are told that the information will be laid upon the Table of the House in the shape of Returns. But it is important, in order to have a check upon these various claims which will be made for the remission of half the rates, to have not merely the total amount given, but the individual items. I do not know whether the local authorities are bound to give the particulars of the various benefices to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue: we have not been told that they must. All the rating authorities have to do is to certify what is the amount they require to make up the half of the rates they have remitted, and the Commissioners are bound to pay that sum. If they refused, there would be a remedy against them in the Courts of Law by mandamus or otherwise. What check have they that the half of the rates which are asked for are rates which have to be remitted? But if you, by this clause, compel them to make this Return to the county councils, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue will be entitled to ask the various rating authorities for the particulars showing how the sum asked for is made up. Supposing this were money belonging to an individual instead of to a county council, can anybody say, with any fairness at all, that it is not right and proper that the individual who otherwise would

have received the money should have a full and detailed account of the money which has been paid to somebody else on his behalf? That is the sole object of the clause. If this is a reasonable and proper Amendment, as the right hon. Gentleman has admitted it is, it ought to be inserted in the Bill. The object of the Government in refusing these Amendments is to avoid the Report stage, when we could again bring forward our arguments. That is the object of the Report stage. The Government, if they are logical, will move that hereafter there shall be no Report stage at all. That is a much better and simpler way, and if they did that they would be forging a weapon which we should be able to use against them at no very distant date.

MR. LAMBERT: I had thought myself of moving an Amendment, for the county councils are really anxious that there shall not be more money deducted from their local funds than is absolutely necessary, and they want a thoroughly efficient check over the money taken out of the Local Taxation Account. May I suggest to the right hon. Gentleman the desirability of putting into the Bill some machinery whereby a greater check can be placed upon the expenditure of this money. This is a matter of great importance to the county council, and the suggestion I have made is one which has the approval of the officials of the Devon County Council.

MR. H. S. SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse): I think the Amendment of my hon. friend is a very important one, which everyone must see is absolutely necessary if the county council is to have any check upon the expenditure of the money. This money belongs to the county council in the first place, and we propose to intercept money which should go into the county fund, and the proposal is that every collector of taxes should make a Return to the county council to show exactly the amount of money that is charged to that particular county. I may say that that is what is done at the present time in reference to main roads. I can conceive of a large amount of money being charged if the collectors were so inclined, for they could send anything up to the Inland Revenue Commissions unless the county council had some check over them. I

think this is a very important Amendment, and I hope my hon. friend will press it to a Division.

MR. LOGAN: No matter what protests we may make, it seems to me that the Committee stage is practically passed, for the Government have decided to refuse all Amendments, no matter how important they are. The right hon. Gentleman admits that this is a very reasonable Amendment.

MR. LONG: What I said was, that what the hon. Member desired was reasonable, but his Amendment was perfectly unnecessary.

MR. LOGAN: The right hon. Gentleman admits that the object at which my hon. friend is aiming is perfectly reasonable, therefore it seems to me that he ought to accept this Amendment. We want to see that these accounts are properly kept, and, above all, I desire that the Inland Revenue Commissioners and the rating authorities should be perfectly certain that the moneys should be collected from the proper quarter, and for this reason I shall support the Amendment. I also desire that the ratepayers in the locality should know the names of these gentlemen who, in future, will receive outdoor relief at our expense, and I wish to see their names published, so that we shall know whom we have got to keep out of our hard earnings.

MR. DALZIEL: I rise to ask the right hon. Gentleman what he means when he says that this new clause is unnecessary, for in his first speech he told us the suggestion was an admirable one. He says that this will be carried out by the Bill as it stands, but is the right hon. Gentleman accurate when he says that? My hon. friend asks that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue shall within eight days send a Return of where the money has been expended. That certainly will not be carried out by the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman. As you are taking money from the ratepayers in certain areas, surely it is a small request to ask that you should give them an account within a reasonable time as to how the money has been spent. I think the Amendment is quite reasonable, but reasonableness has no attraction so far as this Committee is concerned.

MR. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton) : What I desire to see is that some sound financial position should be adopted. I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman is prepared to speak on behalf of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, but I think he ought to assure us that at least attention has been properly given by the Government to this question.

MR. LONG : I cannot possibly undertake to say that this can be done, because it would be clearly against the best possible information and advice we have received with regard to the operation of this Act.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE : The position now taken up by the right hon. Gentleman is that he will give us information and let us know something about what happens in good time, but our point is will he give information with regard to each individual case ? In the Education Department we get Returns with regard to every school board in the country, and we get full information with regard to the different grants. But in regard to Voluntary schools an attempt was made to secure a Return in regard to voluntary subscriptions, but we have not been able to get any information. We have made an appeal upon this question to the Vice-President of the Council, but he refers us to somebody else, and nobody seems prepared to carry out the promise which was given us to supply this information in regard to the Voluntary schools. We know from experience the value of these indefinite vague undertakings. If the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture gave us his word we know what it would mean, but he declines to give it. I remember what happened when one of the great measures of this Government dealing with prison made goods was passed by this House. The President of the Board of Trade then undertook that he would give us a Return as to the operation of the Bill, and we asked for a statutory obligation to that effect. The President of the Board of Trade promised to give us that Return, but it has never been published up to this day. If a statutory obligation had been inserted in that Bill, we should have had that Return, and the Department dare not have refused it ; but we have been relying upon these vague voluntary promises which are never

carried out. I do not say that the right hon. Gentleman did not intend to carry out his promise, but it has not been done.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) : Will the hon. Gentleman quote the promise ?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE : I cannot turn up the passage in *Hansard* just at the moment, but I will ask the right hon. Gentleman if he denies that he promised that such a Return would be made ?

MR. RITCHIE : What Return ?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE : It was a Return as to the goods manufactured in foreign prisons. In the Bill we are now considering, the county council has no opportunity of scrutinising and overhauling these proceeding. I would point out to the Committee that merely providing for accounts from the surveyor of taxes is not a sufficient guarantee that the thing will be done thoroughly, for sometimes you get very competent officials and sometimes you do not. Occasionally you get gentlemen who are strongly in sympathy with the local clergymen. In some areas you have got forty or fifty parishes, and how is the surveyor of taxes going to examine the separate accounts kept in all those parishes, for it is no business of the collectors to audit the accounts, for his duty is simply to get as much money as he can out of the Government. Therefore, the surveyor of taxes has no access to the assessment account except by making a visit to each of these forty or fifty parishes, which is practically impossible. The result will be that under the proposal of the Government these duties will be perfunctorily performed, and these demand notes presented by the local collector of taxes will be accepted without any scrutiny at all, because the account will be paid by someone in London. This is the way in which the finances of the country are to be conducted, and I should like to know if the right hon. Gentleman can produce a single precedent for this proposal. Somebody should be appointed to inquire into the matter. When the Agricultural Rating Bill was before the House we raised the point then. We said we had really no check. But we were told we had the surveyor of taxes. I make no complaint against the surveyor of taxes,

but you are asking him to do a thing for which he has no machinery or officers on which to rely. If the clause of my hon. friend were adopted, it would be a totally different thing. The county councils have representatives in every parish, and they could make inquiries. Supposing a Return came down, in eight days the Members of the Finance Committee coming from every part of the country would go through the accounts, and carefully scrutinise the demand. These safeguards are not desired by the Govern-

ment. All they require is that their friends should pillage all they can out of the taxation of the country.

Mr. LONG rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 202; Noes, 97. (Division List, No. 265.)

AYES.

Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden	Doughty, George	Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers	Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Arnold, Alfred	Doxford, William Theodore	Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Drucker, A.	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Fellowes, Hon. Alwyn Edward	Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Baird, J. George Alexander	Finch, George H.	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Balcarres, Lord	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Lorne, Marquess of
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)	Firbank, Joseph Thomas	Lowe, Francis William
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Fisher, William Hayes	Lowles, John
Banbury, Frederick George	Fison, Frederick William	Lucas-Shadwell, William
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. S. (Hunts.)	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)	Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Bartley, George C. T.	Galloway, William Johnson	Macdona, John Cumming
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Gedge, Sydney	MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Br'st'l)	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
Beckett, Ernest William	Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)	Malcolm, Ian
Benrose, Sir Henry Howe	Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.	Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Beresford, Lord Charles	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo.)	Milbank, Sir Powlett Charles J.
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Mildnay, Francis Bingham
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Milner, Sir Frederick George
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Graham, Henry Robert	Milton, Viscount
Bousfield, William Robert	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Milward, Colonel Victor
Brassey, Albert	Green, Walford D. (Wedn'sbury)	Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)	More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Greville, Hon. Ronald	Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh.)
Bullard, Sir Harry	Gull, Sir Cameron	Morrell, George Herbert
Burdett-Coutts, W.	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles	Morrison, Walter
Carlile, William Walter	Halsey, Thomas Frederick	Morton, Arthur H.A. (Deptford)
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)	Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord Geo.	Mount, William George
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.	Muntz, Philip A.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Hanson, Sir Reginald	Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Hardy, Laurence	Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Hare, Thomas Leigh	Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm)	Henderson, Alexander	Nicholson, William Graham
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)	Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Charrington, Spencer	Hobhouse, Henry	Northcote, Hon. Sir H. S.
Chelsea, Viscount	Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)	O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	Hornby, Sir William Henry	Pender, Sir James
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry	Pierpoint, Robert
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Howell, William Tudor	Pilkington, R. (Lanes, Newton)
Colomb, Sir John C. Readly	Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil	Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Compton, Lord Alwyne	Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn	Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Cornwallis, F. Stanley W.	Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-	Purvis, Robert
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Rankin, Sir James
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)	Rentoul, James Alexander
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Jolliffe, Hon. H. George	Richards, Henry Charles
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Kemp, George	Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l)
Curzon, Viscount	Kenyon, James	Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William	Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Kimber, Henry	Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Lafone, Alfred	Round, James
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-	Laurie, Lieut.-General	Royds, Clement Molyneux
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)

Rutherford, John
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Seton-Karr, Henry
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon. Arthr. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley

Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollmache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)

Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks. E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness)
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davitt, Michael
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Ellis, John Edward
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Flynn, James Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Hedges
Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.

Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Killbride, Denis
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson-Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leuty, Thomas Richmond
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Logan, John William
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. MA (Queen's C.)
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Ewan, William
M'Ghee, Richard
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
Oldroyd, Mark
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs, SW)

Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Randell, David
Reckitt, Harold James
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudder'd)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS for the NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. M'Arthur.

Question put accordingly, "That the clause be read a second time." | The Committee divided :—Ayes, 97 ; Noes, 202. (Division List, No. 266.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crilly, Daniel

Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davitt, Michael
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Ellis, John Edward
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. M. (Leith)
Flynn, James Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir W.

Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-Hedges
Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Killbride, Denis
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson-Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'ld)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leuty, Thomas Richmond
Lewis, John Herbert

Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'n's C)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merth'r)
 Morley, Charles (Breckshire)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 Oldroyd, Mark

Pease, J. A. (Northumb.)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert

Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barry, Rt Hn A. H. Smith (Hunts)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Benrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Beresford, Lord Charles
 Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscauen, Arthur Griffith
 Bou-sfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Coloumb, Sir John Charles R.
 Compton, Lord Ailwyn
 Cornwallis, F. Stanley W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chat.)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.

Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Goschen, Rt. Hn G. J. (St George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert W.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
 Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kenp, George
 Kenyon, Janies
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William

Kimber, Henry
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W.F.
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H.A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Pender, Sir James
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Richardson, Sir Thos. (Hartlep'l)

Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chs. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Seton-Karr, Henry
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)

Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C.E. (Kent)
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd

Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berk., E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOE—Sir
William Walron and Mr.
Anstruther.

MR. D. A. THOMAS moved, "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again," but the Chairman, being of opinion that the motion was an abuse of the rules of the House, declined to propose the Question thereupon to the Committee.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The next Amendment in order is the second Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Mid-Glamorganshire.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: On a point of order, I wish to ask whether the Amendment of the hon. Member for Shoreditch is not in order. What he proposes is to insert the following clause:

"For the purposes of this Act returns shall be made annually, and presented to Parliament by the Local Government Board—

"(a) By every rating authority, showing the sums actually exempted by them in respect of the rating of tithes in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

"(b) By the Local Government Board, showing for each county and county borough the total amount of rates exempted by this Act, and the amount by which the Exchequer contribution fund of each county and county borough falls short in consequence of the payment out of the Local Taxation Account under provisions of this Act."

That is taken bodily out of the Agricultural Rating Act, and is for a similar purpose. Therefore I submit it is in order and not inconsistent with anything that has been done.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That Amendment deals with the same subject matter as the clause which the Committee has just refused to accept. The subject is not dealt with in the same way, but the subject matter is the same, and the clause should properly come as an Amendment to the clause which has been rejected.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: If this Amendment were in the hands of any one else I should be inclined to describe it as a most important Amendment, and I should deplore that it had to be taken at such an hour of the morning. It is not my fault that the clause smacks of language somewhat of an ecclesiastical character, but it is absolutely accurate in accordance with the form of the writ in such cases. The clause reads as follows:—

"This Act shall not apply while the said tithe rent-charge, or any other fruits, profits, obventions, ecclesiastical rights, or emoluments of or attaching to the benefice shall be sequestered by a writ of *fieri facias de bonis ecclesiasticis* or any other writ of sequestration."

Sequestration in clerical affairs is really bankruptcy. If a man in such circumstances were not a clergyman he would be called a bankrupt. The reason why a separate writ has to be issued is that a clergyman's goods are supposed to be of a somewhat sacred character, and are not to be touched by lay hands. In ordinary life a man whose goods are seized by an Official Receiver is termed a bankrupt, and he is not able to fulfil ordinary civic duties or obligations. If he be a member of a school board or of a board of guardians he ceases to be a member. A Member of this House may be guilty of all sorts of things, but he must not be a bankrupt. If he is he ceases to be a Member. But, curiously enough, until the Clergy Discipline Act of a few years ago a living could not by any proceeding be taken out of the hands of the holder of a benefice even though he were a bankrupt. Even now a distinction is made. It is assumed unless the bishop takes proceedings that a clergyman is fit to preach to his congregation that they ought to pay their debts, and to render unto

Cæsar that which is his, although he himself cannot pay his creditors. Under such circumstances it cannot be right that the tithe rent-charge attached to a benefice which is sequestered should be free from rates. Everyone will admit that. When he ceases to enjoy the profits of the benefice by reason of having got into difficulties with his creditors, surely the reason for exemption no longer applies, and there is no reason why the creditors should be entitled to the relief. Everything that he has is seized under this writ.

New clause (provisions as to sequestered benefices)—(*Mr. Samuel Evans*)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the Clause be read a second time.”

SIR R. B. FINLAY: The hon. Member has forgotten that a writ of sequestration is an execution rather than a bankruptcy. I trust he will not seriously press this clause. May I point out that the maintenance of proper services in the parish is a first charge on the revenue of the living, even though it be under sequestration. Sequestration, too, does not last a very long time, for, if it is likely to, then pro-

vision is made for removing the clergyman from the benefice. Take an ordinary case where a writ is in force for a short time. Surely it would be extremely inconvenient to have to make a certain abatement of rates for say a period of six weeks? Would it not be more convenient that the same rule should continue to apply, even if there be a temporary execution in force? I hope the hon. and learned Member will not press the Amendment.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): The suggestion of the Solicitor-General seems to be that, inasmuch as a writ of sequestration only lasts a short period, this Amendment is unnecessary. But this Bill is also only to last a brief time, and it is quite possible that a writ of sequestration may run the whole length of its duration. I think my hon. friend has made out a clear case in favour of this Amendment, although it is evident that the Government had determined to accept no alteration that is proposed, however valuable it may be.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 97; Noes, 201. (Division List, No. 267.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)	Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Hedderwick, Thomas C. H. Horniman, Frederick John Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C. Joicey, Sir James Jones, David B. (Swansea)	Nussey, Thomas Willans O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W. Oldroyd, Mark Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb. Pickersgill, Edward Hare Pilkington, Sir Geo A (Lancs SW Power, Patrick Joseph Price, Robert John Provand, Andrew Dryburgh Randell, David Reckitt, Harold James Rickett, J. Compton Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.) Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees) Scott, Chas. Pres'wich (Leigh) Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford) Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.) Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.) Soames, Arthur Wellesley Souttar, Robinson Spicer, Albert Stanhope, Hon. Philip J. Steadman, William Charles Stevenson, Francis S. Stuart, James (Shoreditch) Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath) Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.) Thomas, D. A. (Merthyr) Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Asher, Alexander	Kilbouchere, Denis	
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Labouchere, Henry	
Barlow, John Ennott	Lambert, George	
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)	Langley, Batty	
Bilson, Alfred	Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)	
Birrell, Augustine	Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)	
Bolton, Thomas Dolling	Leuty, Thomas Richmond	
Burns, John	Lewis, John Herbert	
Caldwell, James	Lloyd-George, David	
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	Logan, John William	
Channing, Francis Allston	Macaleese, Daniel	
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Q's C.)	
Colville, John	M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)	
Condon, Thomas Joseph	M'Crae, George	
Crilly, Daniel	M'Dermott, Patrick	
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	M'Ewan, William	
Dalziel, James Henry	M'Ghee, Richard	
Davies, M. V. (Cardigan)	M'Leod, John	
Davitt, Michael	Maddison, Fred.	
Donelan, Captain A.	Maden, John Henry	
Doogan, P. C.	Morgan, W. P. (Merthr)	
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)	Morley, Charles (Breconshire)	
Duckworth, James	Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)	
Edwards, Owen Morgan		
Ellis, John Edward		
Fenwick, Charles		
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)		
Flynn, James Christopher		
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John		
Goddard, Daniel Ford		

Wedderburn, Sir William
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)

Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Woodhouse, Sir JT (Huddersf'd)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
Mr. Samuel Evans and Mr.
M'Kenna.

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Foster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Captain J. FitzRoy
Baird, John George A.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man')
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith (Hunts)
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bemrose, Sir H. nry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Beresford, Lord Charles
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bra-sey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burlett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chambe-lain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cornwallis, Fiennes-Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, J. K. D. Wingfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
Doxford, William Theodore
Drucker, A.
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)

Galloway, Wm. Johnson
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
Godson, Sir A. Frederick
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, W. D. (Wendesbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hardy, Laurence
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hill, Sir E. W. Stock (Bristol)
Hobhouse, Henry
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howell, William Tudor
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Kemp, George
Kenyon, James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Kimber, Henry
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkhead)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Mac ona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.)
Malcolm, Ian
Masey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milbank, Sir Powlett Charles J.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Sir Frederick George
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. F. (Monmouthsh.)

Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, Walter
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William George
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. S.
O'Neill, Hon. Robt. Torrens
Pender, Sir James
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir Jane
Kentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Richardson, Sir T. (Hartlep'd)
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Seton-Karr, Henry
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lanes.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hon. Jno. Lloyd
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Jos. Powell (Birr.)
Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks.)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The remaining clauses on the Paper are out of order.

being, and until the resolution is rescinded, apply within the area of the county."

MR. LABOUCHERE: Perhaps, Sir, you have overlooked the Amendment standing in my name, which I have been waiting here three weary days to propose. The new clause I wish to propose is—

"The county council of any county may determine by resolution that the provisions in this Act contained shall not for the time

*THE CHAIRMAN: It should have come on as a proviso at the end of the first clause.

Question put, "That the Chairman do report the Bill, without Amendment, to the House."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 189; Noes, 94. (Division List, No. 268).

A YES.

Allhusen, Augustus Hen.	Eden	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Anson, Sir William Reynell		Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn		Doxford, William Theodore
Arnold, Alfred		Drucker, A.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.		Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John		Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy		Finch, George H.
Baird, John George Alexander		Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Balcarres, Lord		Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch't)		Fisher, William Hayes
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)		Fison, Frederick William
Barry, Rt Hon. A. H. Smith-Hunts		Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Bartley, George C. T.		Galloway, William Johnson
Barton, Dunbar Plunket		Gedge, Sydney
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)		Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Beckett, Ernest William		Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)
Henrroe, Sir Henry Howe		Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.		Goldsworthy, Major-General
Beresford, Lord Charles		Goschen, Ht Hn. G. (St George's)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.		Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Blundell, Colonel Henry		Goulding, Edward Alfred
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-		Graham, Henry Robert
Iousfield, William Robert		Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Brassey, Albert		Green, W. D. (Wednesday)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John		Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Brookfield, A. Montagu		Greville, Hon. Ronald
Bullard, Sir Harry		Gull, Sir Cameron
Burdett-Coutts, W.		Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Carlile, William Walter		Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)		Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord George
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)		Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. Wm.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William		Hanson, Sir Reginald
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)		Hardy, Laurence
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.		Hare, Thomas Leigh
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)		Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcester)		Hobhouse, Henry
Charrington, Spencer		Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Chelsea, Viscount		Hornby, Sir William Henry
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.		Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis		Howell, William Tudor
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse		Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
Colomb, Sir Jno. Chas. Ready		Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn
Compton, Lord Alwyne		Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-
Cornwallis, Fiennes-Stanley W.		Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.		Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge		Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Cubitt, Hon. Henry		Kemp, George
Curzon, Viscount		Kenyon, James
Dalrymple, Sir Charles		Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)		Kimber, Henry
Dickson-Poynier, Sir J. P.		Lafone, Alfred
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-		Laurie, Lieut.-General
Dizraeli, Coningsby Ralph		Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Doughty, George		Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)

Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.

Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edward M.
 Valentia, Viscount
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)

Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marquess Duke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Asher, Alexander
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardig'n)
 Davitt, Michael
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Edwards, Owen Morgan
 Ellis, John Edward
 Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-H.
 Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
 Horniman, Frederick John

Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kilbride, Denis
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M.A. (Queen's C.)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Brecknockshire)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir Geo A. (Lancs SW)

Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Provost, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Rickitt, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. M'Arthur.

House resumed.

MR. DALZIEL: On a point of order may I ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether, the Twelve o'clock rule having been suspended in respect of the Tithe Rent-charge Bill, it is competent to go on to the next Order of the day? I consider that the Government ought to consult the convenience of Members in all parts of the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have not the least objection, to-day being Friday, and in the exceptional circumstances of the case, to move the adjournment of the House.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: On the question of adjournment, I should wish to make a personal explanation to the right hon. the President of the Board of Trade. I stated in the course of the discussion of one of the Amendments that he had given a pledge that certain Returns which had been asked for would be made, and I suggested that that pledge had not been redeemed. I fully admit now that the right hon. Gentleman had fulfilled his pledge.

MR. RITCHIE was understood to say that he accepted the explanation of the hon. Member for Carnarvon.

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly at five minutes after Four of the clock in the morning.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Friday, 14th July 1899.***PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.****WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.**

Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION BILL.
Reported with Amendments.**GREAT NORTHERN AND STRAND RAILWAY BILL.**

The Queen's consent signified; and Bill reported with Amendments.

WALKER AND WALLSEND UNION GAS (ELECTRIC LIGHTING) BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

DERBY CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL.**LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL.**

Reported with Amendments.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

The Queen's consent signified, and Bill reported with Amendments.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BILL.**WARRINGTON CORPORATION BILL.****SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES (NEW LINES) BILL.**

Committee to meet on Tuesday next.

LIVERPOOL OVERHEAD RAILWAY BILL. [H.L.]**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH (CARDIFF) BILL.** [H.L.]**GREAT GRIMSBY STREET TRAMWAYS BILL.** [H.L.]

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

VOL. LXXIV. [FOURTH SERIES.]**GOOLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.**

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

FURNESS RAILWAY BILL. [H.L.]**GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS AND WATER) BILL.** [H.L.]**GLASGOW CORPORATION (TRAMWAYS, &c.) BILL.** [H.L.]**GREAT YARMOUTH CORPORATION BILL.** [H.L.]**KIRKCALDY CORPORATION AND TRAMWAYS BILL.** [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

LOWESTOFT WATER AND GAS BILL. [H.L.]**TOTLAND WATER BILL.** [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

House to be in Committee on Monday next.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

Moved—That the Order of the 9th March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday, the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to; and Bill read 2^a accordingly.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.**TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.**

No. 2317. Sweden (Stockholm and Eastern Coast).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

ARMY.

- I. (Army Act.) Amendments of the Rules of Procedure, 1893.
- II. (Militia.) Further regulations relating to the Militia.
- III. (Military Prisons.) Amendment to the Rules for Military Prisons.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES BILL. [H.L.]

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

MARRIAGES VALIDITY (No. 2) BILL. [H.L.]

Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE AT KHARTOUM BILL. [H.L.]

To be read 2^a on Monday next.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five of the clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 14th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

AYR BURGH BILL.

Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to, with Amendments.

SOUTH HANTS WATER BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

GLASGOW CORPORATION TELE-PHONES BILL (by Order).

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday, the 25th of July.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 15) BILL.

As amended, considered.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon District): It is not my intention to further oppose this Bill, seeing that it has been considerably modified in Committee, but I should like to make one or two observations in regard to the really important points which were raised in connection with it. On the motion for the Second Reading attention was called by some of my colleagues and myself to some provisions of the Bill which were of a very sweeping character, and which, if carried, would have had the effect practically of prohibiting the delivery of sermons and addresses on the foreshore of Rhyl. I believe that these powers had been introduced into the Provisional Order without the notice of the House being called to the fact. An attempt has been made to introduce them into Private Bills, but as those Bills were referred to the Police and Sanitary Committee for consideration, that body struck them out. What happened with regard to this Provisional Order? I think it is well the House should bear in mind what occurred. The Local Government Board opposed any attempt to refer this matter to a Committee of the House. It was suggested that something in the nature of what is known as the Paignton Clause, which was framed for the purpose of preserving law and order on the foreshore, would have been ample to meet the requirements of this case. But the Local Government Board refused to come to any terms, or to accept any suggestion; they refused even to allow the Bill to be sent before the Police and Sanitary Committee. On the first motion I made the House of Commons supported the Local Government Board by a considerable majority, and it was not until I had raised the question a second time that the House thoroughly grasped the idea which underlay the principle of the Bill, and saw how dangerous it would be to entrust any local authority with a power to prohibit public meetings on the foreshore. I suggested successfully that the Bill should be referred to a strong Committee; and what was the result of the reference? The very clause which the Local Government Board had rejected with contumely and scorn was placed in the Bill by, practically, the unanimous

decision of the Committee. I think that that shows the danger of having these provisions inserted in these Provisional Orders, without some kind of supervision on the part of the House. Remember, a Provisional Order is generally unopposed. It is not a matter to which the House pays much attention, and, indeed, it so appears upon the Order Paper that nobody knows to what it refers. The words used are "Local Government Provisional Order No. [blank] Bill." It is quite a revelation to the House when it discovers that in these Provisional Orders powers are delegated to local authorities which would not be possessed by them under the common law of this country. I should like to point out the moral. In this case the House of Commons was really dominated too much by a Government Department. That Department was practically attempting to over-ride a decision of the House, and I venture to assert that this House would never have dreamt of inserting in any Bill, and no Government would ever have put any such Bill on the Table of the House, provisions which were inserted by a Government Department in this particular Provisional Order. Whenever any effort is made to scrutinise these Local Government Board Orders, and to suggest that they should be investigated by a Committee of the House of Commons, very strong objection is expressed by the Department. But I do submit that it is our duty to see that the Common Law rights of the people are not taken away from them under these Orders; and I trust that, as a result of the action taken in this case, the Local Government Board will be much more cautious in the future with regard to provisions of this character. Now, this Bill contained three Orders, relating respectively to Rhyl, Ramsgate, and Reading, and there were in at least two of them the same regulations for regulating the use of the foreshore. Fortunately, the Rhyl people discovered it in time to object; they secured the appointment of one of the strongest Committees possible, and, after a very slight investigation, that Committee came to a conclusion that the provisions were of a character which could not possibly be justified. The Ramsgate people did not find it out, and the result is that the regulation is imposed on them. I will not press the matter further. Thanks to the interposition of the Committee, I have gained my point, and I only wished to draw attention to the fact.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

**YEADON AND GUISELEY GAS BILL
[Lords].**

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

**GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1)
BILL [Lords].**

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 11) BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14) BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 15) BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL
[Lords].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

WHITEHAVEN CORPORATION BILL
[Lords].

ABERDEEN JOINT PASSENGER STATION BILL [Lords].

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [Lords].

HUMBER CONSERVANCY BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

OWEN'S COLLEGE, MANCHESTER, BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

PORT TALBOT RAILWAY AND DOCKS BILL [Lords].

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL
[Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

CROMER PROTECTION BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

BROOKES PARK (LONDONDERRY) BILL
[Lords].

Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill to be read the third time.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (FINANCE) BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE, CLEVEDON, AND PORTISHEAD TRAMWAYS COMPANY (LIGHT RAILWAY EXTENSIONS) BILL [Lords].

LOUGHBOROUGH CORPORATION BILL
[Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 4) BILL.

Without Amendment.

Amendments to:

BRISTOL GAS BILL [Lords].

With an Amendment.

PETITIONS.

ARMY PENSIONS.

Petition from St. Giles', Camberwell, for weekly payment; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (LIMITATION OF LIABILITY OF SHIOPWNERS) BILL.

Petition from Aberdeen against; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petitions for alteration of Law from Galashiels, Currie, and Kilmaurs; to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour from Anstruther, Wester and Kilkenny; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour from Tyldesley and Renhold; to lie upon the Table.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Petition from Galashiels against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

ARMY (RULES OF PROCEDURE).

Copy presented,—of Amendments of Rules of Procedure (Army), 1893 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (MILITARY PRISONS).

Copy presented,—of Amendment to the Rules for Military Prisons [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (MILITIA).

Copy presented,—of Further Regulations relating to the Militia [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2317 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House :—

CALEDONIAN CANAL.

Copy of Ninety-fourth Report of the Commissioners [by Act] ; to be printed. [No. 278.]

QUESTIONS.

RECRUITING IN THE HIGHLANDS.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what counties or districts he includes in the Highlands of Scotland.

*THE UNDERR SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) : Far be it from me to attempt a geographical definition of the Highlands. For the purposes of recruiting the Highlands are considered to be the counties which include the regimental districts of Highland regiments ; and these are Aberdeen, Argyll, Banff, Bute, Caithness, Clackmannan, Cromarty, Dumbarton, Elgin, Fife, Forfar, Inverness, Kincardine, Kinross, Nairn, Orkney, Perth, Renfrew, Ross, Stirling, Sutherland, and the Shetland Isles.

*MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) : What becomes of the rest of Scotland ?

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR : I thought it necessary to ask this information so as to gauge the value of certain statistics given us yesterday.

WAR OFFICE STAFF CLERKS.

MR. KILBRIDE (Galway, N.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the Secretary of State will continue to the staff clerks in charge of sub-divisions in the War Office the annual allowance of £50 granted to officers qualified to act for principals during temporary absence ; and, if so, whether the gentlemen who have performed the duties recently vacated by Mr. Herbert Wood and Mr. George Hawkins will receive the allowances enjoyed by those officers up to the dates of their retirement from the service.

*MR. WYNDHAM : Until the Committee which is now considering the clerical organisation of the War Office has reported, I must ask the hon. Member to excuse me from giving a ruling on a question which would affect the relative standing of the several grades of clerks. At present I can only say that the point which he has raised will be considered.

INDIAN WARRANT OFFICERS' GRIEVANCES.

SIR CAMERON GULL (Devonshire, Barnstaple) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether under existing regulations an Indian departmental warrant officer being invalidated to England during the summer months (non-trooping season) would be compelled either to pay for passages for his family to England or leave them in India, his furlough pay being only £6 or £6 10s. a month ; and whether it is proposed to take any action to remove the grievances of Indian warrant officers as regards furlough pay and passages.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing) : My hon. friend has quoted the regulations correctly. I do not think I should be justified in incurring the expenditure which would be entailed by granting passage to families when troopers are not running.

EXCHANGE COMPENSATION ALLOWANCES IN INDIA.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in admitting the rights of certain of their civil officers to the exchange compensation allowance which was granted generally in 1893 to Anglo-Indian employees of the Indian Government, subject to reservations with regard to certain services and to special circumstances or questions of domicile, the Indian Government, in cases where it has been proved that the recipient's claim to the compensation was good from the first, has nevertheless brought such recipient under regulations which only admit his claim to the compensation as having effect from 1st April, 1897; whether he is aware of the case of Mr. Charles Edmondstone Ross, of the Public Works Department, who was refused the compensation allowance in 1893, on some interpretation of the law of domicile, but has since been admitted to the privilege but only with effect from 1st April, 1897; whether Mr. Ross has applied to the Government of India to grant him the full arrears of allowance having effect from the date when it was granted in 1893, on the ground that he was entitled to it at that date, citing in proof thereof the fact that it was then granted to his brother and sister, both in the Government service, whereas it was refused to him, and that as regards questions of parentage, service, domicile, etc., there was no substantial distinction between the conditions of his case and those of his brother and sister; and whether he will explain on what ground, while recognising that Mr. Ross had a claim to the allowance, the Government of India has declined to grant him the full arrears of compensation conceded in other and similar cases.

LORD G. HAMILTON: Exchange compensation was granted in 1893 under certain regulations in which the question of domicile was an important element. In 1897 the rules were altered, and the allowance was granted under other conditions, one of which was that the allowance must not be given to a native of India as defined by Statute. It is clear that many officers may have been eligible under the later regulations, who were not so under the earlier orders. Mr. Ross is one of a large number of officers from whom memorials were

received in 1894 and 1895, as to which the Secretary of State in Council decided that he could not entertain appeals from the decisions of the Government of India based on his general instructions.

INDIAN STAFF CORPS—MARRIED OFFICERS' ALLOWANCES.

SIR SEYMOUR KING: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, whether married officers of the Indian Staff Corps who come home to attend the Staff College, though allowed personally to rejoin their regiments in India at Government expense, are not entitled to passages for their wives and families; and, whether, seeing that such officers lose a considerable amount of pay in coming home to attend the Staff College, and that moreover the two years at Camberley involve extra expenditure, the Government of India will consider the advisability of allowing married officers some compensation in the shape of passage money for their families or free passage by troopers when rejoining their regiments in India.

LORD G. HAMILTON: Officers of the Indian Staff Corps are not entitled to passages at the public expense for wives and families on joining the Staff College or on return to India after completing the College course, but they are eligible for non-entitled passages in transports where spare accommodation is available. The allowances of officers of the Staff Corps at the Staff College were very considerably increased last year; and I see no sufficient reason at present for any further alteration of the rules in their favour.

INDIAN COMPANIES — BRANCH REGISTERS IN ENGLAND.

SIR SEYMOUR KING: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has yet come to any decision as to initiating legislation for enabling Indian companies to open offices for the transfer and registration of shares in this country.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I addressed the Government of India on the subject of my hon. friend's question on the 16th March last, and I observe from the newspapers received by the last homeward mail that a Bill to enable Indian companies to establish branch registers in this country was introduced by

Mr. Dawkins in the Viceregal Legislative Council on the 23rd June.

LASCAR SEAMEN.

MR. ALFRED THOMAS (Glamorganshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the officers recently appointed by him to superintend the transfer of Lascar seamen in the United Kingdom, and also occupying the positions of superintendents of Mercantile Marine offices, now receive no remuneration for this duty owing to the Board of Trade having given instructions that the authorised fee of 3s. for each transfer certificate shall be credited to that Department instead of being retained by the officer performing the duty; whether the sanction of the India Office was obtained to the action of the Board of Trade in thus disposing of the authorised fees still payable by shipowners to the superintendents; whether the action of the Board of Trade in this respect will apply to transfer officers who also hold the appointments of collectors of customs; whether he is aware that much discontent exists at the course pursued by the Board of Trade among the recently appointed superintendents for the transfer of Lascars as well as the prospective holders of these appointments; and if, in conjunction with the Board of Trade, he will inquire into the subject with a view of removing any grievance that may exist.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The arrangement made by the Board of Trade in 1896 appears to be correctly described in the first clause of the Question. The arrangement was accepted by me subject to the proviso that the work connected with Lascars should be not less satisfactorily performed than heretofore. The point raised in the third clause of the question has not, so far as I am aware, come under discussion. But I understand that the arrangement of 1896 will be applicable to all public servants who are appointed to be superintendents of Lascar transfers. I have no knowledge of the existence of discontent with the present arrangements, and it clearly would be outside my province to make inquiry into the arrangements of the Board of Trade with its officers.

NEWFOUNDLAND TREATY SHORE.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies when the Report of the Newfoundland Commission will be in the hands of Members; whether there has been fresh trouble on the Treaty Shore; and whether the usual notice has been issued this year by the naval officer on the station fixing the price of bait to other than French fishermen.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): In answer to the first question, I have to say I am unable to fix any date for the presentation of the Report. I have received no information of any such trouble as is mentioned in the second paragraph. The usual notice of the price for the sale of bait, fixed by a meeting of the local fishermen, was issued.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Is there any legal authority by which the price of bait is fixed by the naval officers on the station?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member is under a misapprehension. The price of bait is not fixed by the naval officer; it is fixed at a meeting of the local fishermen.

NORTHERN FISHERIES CONFERENCE.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can now give any further information regarding the progress of the North Sea Fisheries Conference at Stockholm.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The conference has terminated, but the Report of the British delegates has not yet been received.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Is any substantial result to be expected from the conference — for instance, of the question of undersized fish?

(No answer was given.)

TUNIS TRADE.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will grant a Return showing the value of goods exported into Tunis by Great Britain and France respectively, in the years 1880, 1885, 1890, 1895, and 1898.

*MR. BRODRICK : There is no objection to granting the Return, but the figures of the French exports to Tunis cannot be given later than for the year 1897.

CONDITIONS OF NATURALISATION ABROAD.

MR. C. H. WILSON (Hull, W.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what are the conditions of naturalisation and the acquisition of political rights in Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, and Italy, respectively; whether in any of these countries large money payments are charged; and if this information cannot be given in the form of an answer, whether he will lay a Paper upon the Table of the House giving this information.

*MR. BRODRICK : Reports with regard to nationality and naturalisation in Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, and Italy were laid before Parliament in 1893—Blue Books entitled Miscellaneous Nos. 3, 4, and 5, c. 7027, 7106, 7155—which will, I think, give the hon. Member the information he desires.

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY'S CAPITAL.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in the balance sheet of the Royal Niger Company, the sum of £493,680, debited in respect of paid-up capital, represents cash paid up; and whether there is any water in this amount, and, if so, how much.

*MR. BRODRICK : I am informed that the entire sum of £493,680 represents cash paid up. There is no water whatever in this amount.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) : I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a portion of the debenture debt of the Royal Niger Company, which it is proposed to pay off with a premium of 20 per cent. out of Imperial

funds, was issued as a bonus, without any payment, to the shareholders of that company; if so, what was the amount of the debt thus created; and whether he will lay upon the Table of the House a list of the original allottees of the debenture bonds, distinguishing between those who paid cash for these bonds and those who paid no cash for them, together with the amount in the first case paid per bond.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.) : The debt referred to in the question is not chargeable on the assets of the Royal Niger Company, but on the customs and other Governmental revenues of the territories administered by the company. It represents the amount, as ascertained by the Government of that day, advanced by the National African Company, prior to the grant of the charter, to secure the political rights acquired up to the date of the charter. Lord Granville stipulated before issuing the charter that the amount to be so repaid should not exceed a permanent annual charge on the revenues of the territory of £12,500, and Lord Salisbury afterwards agreed that this should be represented by the issue of five per cent. stock, repayable at par in 1938, for £250,000. The Crown agents for the Colonies were entrusted at the time with the duty of verifying the amount expended by the National African Company, and, as directed, they stopped when £250,000 had been passed, though the company claimed that a large balance of expenditure remained unrecognised. It appears, therefore, that the whole amount of the £250,000 was issued against cash advanced.

MR. LABOUCHERE : The right hon. Gentleman has not answered my question as to a bonus being issued to the shareholders of the company.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : I am afraid I have not made myself intelligible. The £250,000 represents money which had been expended by the company previous to the grant of the charter. It was issued to recompense them for the expense they had been put to. It was simply a repayment of money due to the shareholders.

MR. LABOUCHERE : Do I understand that anyone received the 30 per cent. in cash?

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: Certainly.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, East): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he is aware that there is a strong desire, not only on the part of the people of London but of all visitors from the provinces, that Buckingham Palace, with its art treasures, should be accessible to the public; whether there is any reason why it should be an exception to all the State Palaces of Europe; and, will he take steps to gratify the popular wishes in this matter.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): In answer to the hon. Member's question I have to say that I am not aware that Buckingham Palace is an exception to all the State Palaces of Europe. It is, in point of fact, not the case, as nearly every inhabited palace in Europe, including that of the President of the French Republic, is closed to the public. I have before stated to the House the objections which there are to the opening of Buckingham Palace. It is unsuitable from internal arrangement for exhibition, and it is almost continually occupied by members of Her Majesty's family. The Queen has given every possible facility to the public to view Windsor and other Royal Palaces, and I am not prepared to ask Her Majesty to make any concession in regard to Buckingham Palace, nor can I hold out any hope that any concession will be made.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG: Is it not a fact that the Palace is unoccupied for the most part of the year, and is there not a charge on the Estimates for it?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I have answered the hon. Member's question fully. If he desires further information I would refer him to the Debate on the Estimates for the Royal Palaces, when this subject was fully discussed.

CUSTOMS WATCHERS' UNIFORMS.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, with respect to an answer given on 7th July, 1898, in which a refusal was given to supply Customs watchers with uniform, on the ground that

the number was still large who left the service after a few weeks or months; whether, in view of the statement made by him that, out of the 343 watchers at present employed in London, 144 have ten years' service, and eighty-six have between three and ten years' service, he is now prepared to reconsider his decision; whether he is aware that a certain number of watchers employed on messenger duty have already been supplied with uniform; and whether it is intended to supply the remainder of the watchers with uniform.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): I assume that the answer referred to is that which I gave on 4th July, 1898. I stated then that the regulation as to uniform was not enforced rigidly; and as the number of men who leave the service after a few weeks or months is still considerable, I see no reason to reconsider my decision. In April last the Treasury sanctioned the issue of uniform to eight watchers in London and four watchers in Liverpool. These men practically fulfil the duties of messengers; and uniforms are allowed to them in order that they may be more easily recognisable. Their case is exceptional and affords no argument for the general issue of uniforms.

TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS IN THE EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE.

MR. STEADMAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, why telegraph messengers are employed in the East Central District Office at 6 a.m., stamping, sorting, etc., at the low wage of messengers, when this work is usually performed by postmen and sorters, receiving a much higher rate of pay, and, as these boys are brought on duty at this early hour, presumably for express letter delivery service, could other arrangements be made to prevent bringing these lads on duty at such an early hour, which must be detrimental to their health; and if the employment of these messengers for postal duties has been put into force in other offices to a very large extent.

MR. HANBURY: There are six of the senior telegraph messengers on duty in the Eastern Central District Office from 6 a.m. for express delivery service,

and during any intervals in which they are not engaged in such service, they fill up their time by rendering assistance in the more elementary work, such as facing letters. This kind of simple work is occasionally done by messengers elsewhere, but not to any large extent. There seems no objection to the practice, nor is there any reason to think that the employment of messengers at 6 a.m. is in any way detrimental to their health, as they are from sixteen to over eighteen years of age, and are only employed upon the early duty every other week.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, what provision is made by the authorities of the Post Office Savings Bank, by communication with the depositors, for ensuring that the accounts are correctly kept and the balances to credit correctly recorded; whether any communication ever passes between the depositors and the Department to verify the accuracy of the account; and, if no such communications are exchanged, whether he will consider the desirability of adopting some such system as that of sending a statement annually to each depositor showing particulars of his account and asking him to return such statement certified as correct or the reverse.

MR. HANBURY: It is one of the regulations of the Post Office Savings Bank, framed under Act of Parliament, 24 Vict. c. 14, that "every depositor shall once in each year, on the anniversary of the day on which he made his first deposit, and at any other time when required by the Postmaster-General, forward his book to the Controller of the Post Office Savings Bank, in a cover to be obtained at any Savings Bank office, in order that the entries in the said book may be compared with the entries in the books of the Postmaster-General and that the interest due to the depositor may be inserted in his Book." Such requirement is printed on the depositors' books, and other means are taken to remind depositors who neglect to forward their books. The examination of the deposit book at the chief office affords a more complete safeguard against all kinds of error than the plan suggested in the last paragraph of the hon. Member's question.

GENERAL LAURIE: What other means are taken to remind depositors who neglect to forward their books?

MR. HANBURY: Whenever any amount is paid through a local office it is sent direct to the central office, and the depositor is informed of the amount actually received.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): Is it not the case that in spite of the fact that hundreds of millions of transactions have taken place the losses have been infinitesimal?

MR. HANBURY: Yes, in all these years the losses have amounted to only £12,000.

PARLIAMENTARY PERMANENT STAFF.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydfil): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury when the Joint Committee on the Houses of Lords and Commons' Permanent Staff may be expected to report, and what has caused the delay in reporting.

MR. HANBURY: The Committee will meet early next week for the consideration of their Report.

MIGRATION IN THE HIGHLANDS.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state how many crofters and cottars have been migrated from congested districts in the Highlands and Islands to other districts in Scotland.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): So far as the Congested Districts Board is concerned the answer is, none.

GRANTS BY THE FISHERY BOARD.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate having regard to the statement contained on page 16 of the Report of the Congested Districts Board that a number of applications for fishing boats and fishing gear were referred to the Fishery Board in consequence of the powers given to that Board under Section 32 of the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886, will he state how many applications of the nature indicated were received by the Fishery Board in the year 1898, and in how many instances assistance was granted.

The following question also appeared on the Paper:—

(14.) Mr. Weir: To ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the fact that on page 16 of the Report of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland it is stated that applicants for fishing boats and fishing gear have been referred to the Fishery Board, who have powers to deal with such requests under Section 32 of The Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886, will he state how many such applicants have been referred to the Fishery Board, and in how many instances their requests have been acceded to.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: This question is identical in substance and almost so in words with No. 14, so I will answer the two together. I am informed by the Fishery Board that during 1898 only one of those who were advised to apply to them sent in any application. It was declined amongst other reasons because the Board at the close of 1890 discontinued the making of such loans, and they have had no funds at their disposal for that purpose since 1894.

MR. WEIR: The second question appeared on the Paper without my knowledge.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: Well, I did not put it down.

MR. WEIR: No. The first question I handed in at the Table was, I was informed, mislaid, so I wrote a second one and handed it in. I suppose the first was eventually discovered.

APPLICATIONS BY COTTARS FOR LAND.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the statement contained on page 9 of the Congested Districts Board Report, will he state how many applications were received during the year 1898 from cottars who desired to obtain land in their own immediate neighbourhood; and will the Board consider the desirability of ascertaining from all such applicants in future whether they would be willing to migrate.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that it is impossible to separate cottars from crofters in their applications, as in most instances they made joint

application, and in others the petition was a resolution of a public meeting of crofters and cottars. The Congested Districts Board consider that the initiative as to migration should be taken by the applicants.

STORNOWAY PRISON.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, if the protest of the Ross and Cromarty County Council against the proposal to discontinue Stornoway Prison and convert it into licensed police cells has yet received the consideration of the Secretary for Scotland.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: Yes, Sir.

BRIDGE MAINTENANCE IN SCOTLAND.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the statement contained on page 6 of the Report of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland, to the effect that county councils are not authorised to spend public money in the maintenance of bridges which are unfit for cart traffic, will he state what arrangements have now been made for the maintenance of such bridges.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The statement in question is not in the Report of the Congested Districts Board, but in a memorandum by the Under Secretary. The difficulty has been got over in some cases by using the powers of parish councils. If the hon. Member has read the next sentence he will see the difficulty is recognised as one that cannot be wholly surmounted without further legislation.

DISFRANCHISEMENT FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RATES.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the fact that the Scottish Office has been able to furnish information in regard to the number of persons disfranchised in Glasgow and Greenock through the non-payment of rates, and is unable to give similar information in regard to the Island of Lewis and the western mainland of Ross-shire, will he ascertain whether the system of collection adopted in Glasgow and Greenock differs from that adopted in Ross-shire and Cromarty; and if so, will he explain the nature of the difference.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The hypothesis of the hon. Member's question is erroneous. The information as regards the number of persons disfranchised is contained in the Return No. 376, of 1899, which includes Ross-shire as well as Glasgow and Greenock. As regards the system of collection the hon. Member may assume that it is effected through collectors, and is firmly enforced when possible by warrant; but the precise dates at which the collectors attend and at which it is attempted to enforce the warrants vary locally in each of the parishes, and I have already explained to the hon. Member that I have no precise information on the subject.

BANFFSHIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he will state approximately what loss will be caused to the State-aided elementary schools in Banffshire, having secondary departments, by the enforcement of the 17s. 6d. limit with reference to the higher grants allowed by the new Code, supposing the results of the present year are not less favourable than those of last year; whether he is aware that in the Aberdeen University bursary competition last year candidates from Banffshire secured first places in Latin, Greek, and German; and that in one Banffshire school (Fordyce) a pupil took honours in no less than four subjects in the leaving certificate examination; and whether, looking to these excellent results, the Department will make good, out of the £35,000, any loss which these schools may suffer from the 17s. 6d. limit.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: It is impossible to estimate what loss, if any, will be caused to the schools in Banffshire by the 17s. 6d. limit until the accounts of the schools, which may fulfil the conditions of Chapter IX. of the Code, are submitted and examined. The conditions of last year afford no data for such an estimate. I have no doubt that the facts stated by the hon. Member are correct. I am aware that good work is done in secondary departments in Banffshire, and I hope that they will be able to earn substantial grants for this under the new Code. The Minute of 27th April would not permit any part of the grant with which it deals to be applied for the purpose suggested.

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS IN SCOTLAND.

MR. J. P. SMITH (Lanark, Partick): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, on behalf of the Secretary for Scotland, whether he will grant a Departmental Committee to inquire into the classification and treatment of prisoners in Scotland, similar to that which sat in 1895 for England under the chairmanship of the right hon. Member for West Leeds.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I do not know of any reason for granting a general inquiry into the prison system in Scotland. If, however, the hon. Member on the discussion on the Estimates is able to bring to my notice any point on which inquiry would be desirable, the Secretary for Scotland will be glad to consider his suggestion.

MR. J. P. SMITH: I will bring up the question on the Estimates.

ORPHAN HOMES OF SCOTLAND.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether any steps have yet been taken by the Education Department to secure for the 900 children of school age in the orphan homes of Scotland that education which the law of Scotland enacts that every child of school age shall compulsorily receive.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Department has been in communication with Mr. Quarrier and the School Board on the subject, and is now awaiting a reply to a letter addressed to the latter.

STOCKBROKERS AND THE STAMP DUTY.

SIR CHARLES CAYZER (Barrow-in-Furness): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the working of the new Stamp Act of this session, under which a contract stamp is required on all contract notes between a provincial stockbroker in a town where there is no stock exchange and his principals, and another stamp on the contract note between himself and his agent in London or elsewhere where the purchase or sale is effected, thus involving the duty being paid twice on the same transaction; and whether relief can be granted in respect to provincial stockbrokers.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: There has been a considerable leakage of stamp revenue in connection with agency business done by stockbrokers on the London and other stock exchanges, especially as regards foreign agency business which (under the strict reading of Section 52 (1) of the Stamp Act, 1891) got practically exempt from all contract note duty. The words inserted in that section by Section 13 of the Finance Act, 1899, were introduced mainly to prevent the foreign purchaser, who employed a foreign agent, continuing to get an exemption which the English purchaser, who employed an English agent, did not enjoy. It was not my intention to impose a double contract note duty on the same transaction, and I am considering a plan by which the payment of a single contract note stamp duty on each transaction may be secured though two or more brokers may be concerned in effectuating the transaction.

for the purpose of concealing proposed military operations from the Boers?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

THE NAVAL MANOEUVRES.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty a question of which I have given him private notice. I beg to ask him whether a certain paper called *The Times* obtained information alone and before any other paper yesterday morning, and was able to publish the full programme of the naval manoeuvres, and under what circumstances and considerations, expressed or implied, that paper had received exclusive information from a Government Department.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): The explanation is quite simple. Sanction had been given on the 10th for the issue of the papers in question on the 12th to such correspondents as had obtained permission to embark during the manoeuvres. Under this sanction the correspondent of *The Times*, who called at the Admiralty on the 11th, was given a copy on the understanding that nothing should be published before the morning of the 13th, when it was intended that all the other newspapers represented should have an equal opportunity of publishing the same information. This understanding was observed. On the evening of the 12th, however, an authority competent to give such an order, being of opinion that it was premature to publish the information so long before the commencement of the manoeuvres, suspended the issue of the papers to the Press, being himself unaware that one copy had been already given under the sanction previously conveyed. I can assure hon. Gentlemen that this is the absolute truth of the matter. These are the simple facts. I regret much the misunderstanding.

MR. DILLON: Will the right hon. Gentleman state how it came to pass that that decision was arrived at as to suspending the issue of the papers to the Press for publication without anyone sending a message to *The Times* newspaper, so that *The Times*, like the other papers, might be prevented publishing the document?

MR. GOSCHEN: There was no one left in authority to issue an Order, nor

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS—THE GOVERNMENT AND *THE TIMES*.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War why the information contained in the paragraph in *The Times*, of 5th July, with regard to military preparations for South Africa was communicated by the Secretary of State for War to *The Times* before any information was given to this House.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Had any hon. Member asked me a question upon this subject I should have been quite ready to give him the same information.

MR. DILLON: Has *The Times* newspaper been adopted by the War Office as the official journal in any sense, and why did the War Office not make the communication to other journals as well?

*MR. WYNDHAM: I think the hon. Member is attaching undue importance to the notice of the events referred to which appeared in *The Times*. There was little in that notice which had not been announced by other papers some days before.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): No, no.

MR. DAVITT: May not the publication of the information in *The Times* be

was anyone there aware of what had happened. There was a misunderstanding, but it was done with perfect *bona fides*.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. DILLON : Is it proposed to take any but Scotch Votes to-night ?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) : I should hope we may get through the Scotch Votes and some English ones as well. I have already engaged to make a statement on Monday in regard to business for the rest of the session, but I think that should be, as customary, a preface to a motion suspending the twelve o'clock rule for the rest of the session.

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, &c.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 279].

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 279].

Bill, as amended in the Standing Committee, to be considered upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 269].

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) ACT AMENDMENT BILL [Lords].

Read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 270].

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection that they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice and Legal Procedure, Mr. Humphreys-Owen ; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Woods.

Mr. HALSEY further reported from the Committee that they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures :—Mr. J. H. M. Campbell, Mr. Maclean, and Mr. William Moore ; and had appointed in substitution Lord

Balcarres, Mr. Dunbar Barton, and Mr. Drage.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

SUPPLY [19TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

(MR. J. E. ELLIS, Nottingham, Rushcliffe, in the chair.)

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £8,858, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary for Scotland and Subordinate Offices."

*SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN (Banffshire) : I wish to ask what action has been taken by the Secretary for Scotland under Section 5 of the Sea Fisheries Act, 1895.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) : I think that should be raised under the Fisheries Board Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN : Yes, I think so.

*SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN : My contention is that the Secretary for Scotland has an independent power for creating fishery districts, and that the point I wish to raise has nothing whatever to do with the Fisheries Board Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN : I am quite aware that the Secretary for Scotland has powers in this matter outside the Fisheries and some other public Departments. Perhaps the hon. Member will further state his argument.

*SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN : The Secretary for Scotland has special powers under Section 5 of the Act to which I have referred, on the application

of certain authorities, to create and to extend the limits of fishery districts. I want to inquire what he has done in this matter since the passing of this Act. There is no doubt about the very great importance of the district committees which he is empowered to appoint. One of the principal functions of those committees is the provision of bait, and the management of mussel banks is a matter which also comes within this Act.

*THE CHAIRMAN : I understand the hon. Baronet is now dealing with something which does not come within the province of fishery boards, and which he desires should.

*SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN : No. I do not want this matter to be dealt with by fishery boards at all. I have no complaint against the fishery boards.

*THE CHAIRMAN : In order to clear up this point of order, I ask whether the hon. Baronet is going to discuss something which the Secretary for Scotland should or should not do in his capacity as Secretary for Scotland.

*SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN : Yes. I wish to discuss something which he should do in his capacity as Secretary for Scotland. This is a matter of very great importance to our fisheries. One of the most serious drawbacks from which they suffer is the want of cheap, fresh, and abundant bait. These District Committees are entrusted with the power of establishing and managing mussel banks, so as to provide the necessary bait for fishermen. But in addition to that there is a good deal of important work to do in the administration of fishery interests, and it is desirable for that purpose to obtain all possible local knowledge. Now both fishermen and fish-curers possess special knowledge of that kind, and the Fishery Board cannot be in a position to deal properly with these questions unless they get their assistance. At present the Secretary for Scotland appoints certain gentlemen as members of the Fishery Board on the ground of their being experts, but it often happens that a man who is an expert in one part of the country is not recognised as an expert in another part. In effect, undue prominence is given to certain local interests.

Section 7 of the Act provides that there shall be an annual conference and consultation of the representatives of the District Committees, so as to secure the benefit of their advice and knowledge. If the Lord Advocate does not put into force the powers he possesses under this Act will he tell us the reason why, and will he say what difficulties he encounters ? Under the present law it depends entirely upon the initiative of local authorities to get District Committees appointed. Under the original Bill eight such District Committees would have been compulsorily established, and had that been carried into effect we should by this time have had the whole thing properly organised. But unfortunately that was not done. What I wish to point out to the Lord Advocate is that, so far as I am aware, but one attempt has been made in order to give effect to the Act, and that has proved to be altogether futile. I know, as a matter of fact, that in one particular district in which I am interested, and which is perhaps the largest fishing centre in Scotland, an attempt has been made to enforce Section 5. An application was sent by the Police Commissioner of Buckie to the Secretary for Scotland in March, 1897, to establish a district committee, which would embrace the fisheries on the southern side of Moray Firth. The local authorities who moved in this matter found it very difficult to induce the other local authorities to co-operate with them. It is a proviso in Section 5, that nothing can be done unless each of the local authorities concerned acquiesces in the application, and consequently the question of forming a fishery district has to be presented in such a way as is likely to lead to a refusal for fear of costs that may be incurred. Now, in this particular case to which I am referring, application was made in due course to the county councils of Nairn, Elgin, and Banff. These were the counties which were to be taken in under the Order. Nairn gave a direct refusal on the ground that it represented an agricultural population which already suffered from a heavy burden of rates. Elgin ordered the application to lie on the table, and Banff sent no reply at all. As regards the town councils : Banff appointed a committee to consult with other local authorities, while Forres absolutely refused to entertain the application. The same amount of success attended the

appeal to several bodies of Police Commissioners. I mention this to show that at any rate an attempt has been made to carry out the law, and the failure has been due to the requirement that all authorities concerned shall voluntarily join in the application. As the compulsory proposal was rejected by the present Government, and as they introduced instead the purely permissive principle I do suggest that their administrative officers are more than ever bound to display activity in making use of the powers placed in their hands. I have no doubt that a good deal could be done in this matter by the exercise of a little judicious influence. It should be explained, for instance, that the expense necessarily incurred is very small indeed. In England, where these district committees have been established, the cost has been very light, except in Lancashire, where they purchased a fishery cruiser. Of course, one of the most important things is that local practical men should be brought into contact with the administrative machinery of Scotland—with, in fact, the Fishery Board, and I do believe that if more district committees were constituted, and placed in communication with the Fishery Board, that body might, with very great advantage to the fishery interests in Scotland, establish close times, and thus enable fishing to be carried on at a period more favourable to the general interest. It is important that we should get the fishermen and fish-curers organised. They are intelligent and skilful people, and I am quite certain that if they were properly organised in their local districts, public opinion would make itself felt, and great help would be given to the administration in dealing with difficult questions. Will the Lord Advocate tell us what has been done during the last four or five years, and will he give us an assurance that the Secretary for Scotland will use his influence with the local authorities to prevent the object for which this Section 5 was passed being rendered entirely nugatory.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I wish, also, to bring before the House a question connected with fishery matters, and it is one which I have felt it my duty to raise in past sessions. It will be in the recollection of Scottish Members that, shortly after the present Government came into office, the Secretary for Scot-

Sir William Wedderburn.

land made a speech in Glasgow, in which he declared his intention of rendering the Sea Fisheries Act, 1895, effective in regard to the extension of the territorial limit. Under that Act, as hon. Members know, the territorial limit can only be extended with the consent of the other Powers bordering on the North Sea. The speech to which I am referring was made in December, 1895, and from that date until now we have been continually urging the Government to do something in this matter. May I point out that, in this respect, a special obligation rests upon the present Government, for it was Lord Salisbury himself at whose instance the proviso was inserted, preventing any extension of limit coming into force until an international agreement had been effected with the other North Sea Powers. Seeing that Lord Salisbury became Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary within two months of the Act being passed, we did expect that he would have done something to make it effective. But, so far, nothing has been accomplished. Can the Lord Advocate give us any assurance that something will be attempted? I know the hon. Member who last spoke is under a somewhat pleasing delusion as to the possible effects of the Conference which has been going on at Stockholm. But it was never pretended by those who were responsible for the assembling of that Conference that it had other than scientific objects, and, therefore, I do not think we are justified in anticipating any practical results from it. We do want something practical done. It is quite time now that the many troublesome questions which are agitating the fishery world should be permanently set at rest by some kind of international agreement. There is the question of the extension of the territorial limit up to thirteen miles. Upon this some of the North Sea Powers are willing to come to an arrangement, and surely it would be possible for the Government to get the responsible Ministers of the various Powers to meet and come to some agreement. I do not suggest that the limit should be extended to thirteen miles in each case, but I would give power to extend it to various distances up to a maximum of thirteen miles. I am certain that if this matter were put in training, practical results would quickly ensue. There is another question I should like to touch upon, and

that is the habit of foreign trawlers fishing in the waters of the Moray Firth, which are closed to British trawlers. These foreign trawlers are not allowed to land their fish in Scotland, and so they take it to England. Surely this is a matter which calls for intervention on the part of the Government. Yet nothing has been done for two or three years. Cannot the Lord Advocate tell us that something is in training to do away with this grievance? Another grievance which has been felt in several counties in Scotland is in regard to the mode of distributing the equivalent grant. We in Aberdeenshire are placed at a disadvantage in this matter by reason of the fact that, for the purposes of the distribution, the rectified boundaries are not observed. I believe that in all some half dozen counties have a grievance in this respect, and I sincerely hope that the Lord Advocate will, when he speaks to-night, give us an assurance that this and other long standing grievances are soon to be brought to a practical solution.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I am sorry to say I differ very much from the hon. Member who has just spoken, as to what is the proper remedy for any defect that there may be in our fishery system. At the present moment we land far more fish than we did ten years ago, and, consequently, those who complain of the conduct of foreign Powers, or of the Secretary for Scotland, ought to make out a far stronger case than they have as yet done. What suggestions have been put forward to-night? The hon. Baronet who first spoke wanted more fishery districts and more district committees, whose business it should be to establish mussel banks. I thought their business was rather to preserve existing mussel banks. Then the hon. Member for Aberdeenshire asked for the closing of the Moray Firth to foreign trawlers. In my opinion, that would be a most foolish and suicidal act. It must be perfectly manifest to anybody who knows anything about international law that the moment you begin closing any waters other Powers will follow your example. The further suggestion is made that the Secretary for Scotland should seek to induce foreign Powers to agree to an extension of the territorial limit from three up to something like thirteen miles. I think that that would be a profound mistake, if by that it is meant that every

Power should have the right of exercising jurisdiction for thirteen miles for fishery purposes. Such an extension of the territorial limit would operate mostly against English and Scottish fishermen. They are already excluded from many productive fishing banks off Denmark and elsewhere, and hon. Gentlemen, no doubt, are aware that some of the best fisheries are not on our coasts. If, therefore, this proposal were carried out we should be excluded from far more fisheries than we should be able to exclude foreign fishermen from on our coast. We have, in fact, nothing to gain and everything to lose. I do not believe that any Secretary for Scotland, or any Foreign Minister, would do anything but harm to our fishery interests by increasing the prohibitive regulations. Already many delusions under which our people have laboured have been destroyed. There was, for instance, the delusion that trawling was destructive of the spawn of fish, and so on. That has disappeared, and I believe we shall soon witness the disappearance of another delusion—*i.e.*, that as to the destruction of immature fish. As we know, there is before this House a Bill, dealing with under-sized fish. I believe it will prove inoperative if carried. I very much doubt if even the President of the Board of Trade can be taken as representing practical knowledge on the question when he pins his faith to a 10 inch sole. The hon. Baronet complained that the Secretary for Scotland did not foster in some way the formation of district committees. But he himself has shown that almost everybody is against the formation of these committees, and how, then, can he expect, in such a state of public feeling, that the Secretary for Scotland could do more than he has done? The suggestion is that the Secretary for Scotland should use his social influence to induce the local authorities to agree where they now disagree, and should stuff them with statistics about, say, 10 inch soles. But it should be borne in mind that these committees cost a good deal of money, and, at the same time, they are likely to impose all kinds of absurd and useless regulations upon fishermen. We have some knowledge of these committees in England, and I have heard of some of the foolish things they have done. They are composed, for the most part, of farmers, who know a great deal about a haystack, but nothing about a

plaice, a sole, or a turbot. I do think it is unbecoming in a great country like this, where the fishing industry is so very important, that we should have practically no means whatever of gaining a knowledge of the habits of fish. No one can say, for instance, why last year and the year before no sprats were to be found on the East Coast, or why there are fewer soles on the Dogger Bank than years ago. In the United States they have a permanent Commission of Inquiry whose duty it is to collect information, and if we were similarly equipped we should be able in a few years to legislate on fishery questions. One result would no doubt be to abolish the Scottish Fishery Board, and to make a clean sweep of the district committees. Professor MacIntosh has done something for this question in his very able book, and I earnestly recommend hon. Members to study it. If they will only look at the matter from a practical point of view they will come to the conclusion that neither an extension of the territorial limit, nor the multiplication of local committees is desirable.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): I think hon. Members will agree with me that the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken takes quite a false view of the whole situation when he insinuates that the trouble is mainly one arising from the difficulties between trawlers and line fishermen. He suggests that we should do away with the Fishery Board for Scotland—

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I did not quite say that. I said we had better complete our knowledge, and that, when we had done so, the result would probably be the abolition of that Board and of the district committees.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: The hon. Member looks forward to the Millennium. The knowledge which he admits we require can surely only be obtained by the efforts of specialists and by the aid of funds voted for that special object, and nobody has helped more in the very direction that the hon. Member wishes us to travel than the Fishery Board for Scotland. Let me remind him that one thing in which our very large fishing industry falls short is the supply of bait; we actually have had to import it in

Scotland year after year at a very large cost. This is the only country in the world in which so much coast line has not developed the cultivation of shell-fish. We fall lamentably short in that respect, although such fish constitute a cheap, useful, and valuable accessory to the food supply of the population. If we could only develop mussel and clam beds it would be a great advantage. With regard to the proposal to extend the territorial limits, may I point out that it is clear, from the Debates which occurred on a previous occasion when legislation of this kind was proposed, that the real purpose of the extension is to give power to the Fishery Board for Scotland to set apart certain areas and close them.

SIR HERBERT MAXWELL (Wigtownshire): Representing as I do a maritime constituency, I must offer a word of remonstrance at the expression which has fallen from my hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn with regard to the Scotch Fishery Board. It should not go out that the Members for the maritime constituencies endorse the views of my hon. friend.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, South): I desire to associate myself with the tribute which has been paid to the zeal with which the Fishery Board conduct scientific investigations, and to the value of their reports. In reference to the question raised by my hon. friend the Member for East Aberdeenshire, viz., the proposal to extend the three-mile limit, we have had this subject frequently before the House, and I do not think it is possible to add anything to it. We have frequently been obliged to tell my hon. friend and those who think with him that it is quite impossible for this country to extend the limit. The experiment has been tried in the case of the Moray Firth, and everybody knows the extreme dissatisfaction and friction to which it gave rise. We cannot extend the thirteen miles without excluding our own subjects from waters which are open to the vessels of other Powers. The matter could not be better put than it was by Lord Salisbury, when, speaking on this subject in 1895, he said he "could not conceive that a state of things could be endured in which the foreigner might trawl and the Englishman might not trawl." In using the word Englishman he naturally intended to

Mr. Gibson Bowles.

include Scotland, for this is a method of expression with which we are all familiar. Lord Salisbury emphasised that point, and said it would give rise to extreme irritation on the part of the whole population if a British vessel were to be captured for trawling within a prohibited area, whilst a foreign vessel is to be at liberty to do so. We cannot extend the limit without excluding our own subjects from waters which are open to the vessels of other Powers. But I suppose my hon. friend desires to bring about an international agreement to extend the limit. The answer to that is two-fold. In the first place, those who have had any experience of endeavouring to negotiate a fishing agreement know that there is nothing in the world so troublesome, protracted, and unsatisfactory. Secondly, it would be more to the disadvantage than the advantage of this country to effect an international extension of the limit, because it would shut our fishermen out from fishing within the thirteen mile limit on foreign coasts. Further, it would be almost impossible to enforce the policing of the seas at so great a distance from the shore as thirteen miles. It is not an easy matter at three miles. How would it be possible in thick or foggy weather to see whether a vessel is actually within the thirteen-mile limit? The difficulties are great already, and they would be incomparably greater if we extend the limit. I think my hon. friends are a little hard on the Stockholm conference. Surely it is of the greatest possible advantage that every avenue of scientific knowledge and research should be opened in reference to this question, and I hope the deliberations will be pressed forward as much as possible.

SIR W. B. GURDON (Norfolk, N.): I should like to say a few words in support of what has fallen from my hon. friends from Scotland, and especially do I desire to address myself to the real hardship from which the line fishermen suffer by their means of livelihood being destroyed by the action of foreign trawlers. In this matter we must all work together, because the same question affects the whole of the east coast of England. I believe that although our gunboats do their duty as well as they can, trawlers know these boats as well as a crow knows a gun. The only remedy seems to be an extension of the three-

mile limit. Of course that seems a rather formidable question, but I cannot see any reason why the North Sea Powers could not agree among themselves to extend the limit, for fishing purposes alone, not to thirteen but eight miles. I am of opinion that this would be of great benefit to our hard-working fishing population. Of course we all know that deep-sea fisheries are international, but the fish which hang about the coast and along the shores belong to the country whose coast they haunt. A mussel or a whelk can hardly be looked upon as an international fish. I hope that the Government may see their way to help us in this matter. It may seem a small thing, but it is a real grievance, and it is in these small things that the happiness of life exists, and in my opinion this House might often be better employed in dealing with these small matters than with those heroic measures with which it sometimes occupies itself.

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): what is wanted of the Secretary for Scotland is that he should give some attention to the matter of line fishing, and arrange for the extension of the three-mile limit on the west coast of the highlands and islands of Scotland. He has the power to do so, without consulting the signatories to the North Sea Convention. Although we were told that the Fisheries Conference at Stockholm would look into the matter, it has done nothing of the kind. It is purely a scientific conference, and no attempt has been made to make it a practical one. I ask the Secretary for Scotland to increase the three-mile limit. It is a very serious matter indeed to the line fishermen, and the Secretary for Scotland knows it. Out of the total number of trawlers caught trawling within the three-mile limit, fifty-two had been caught more than once, and forty more than four times in one year. The Secretary for Scotland knows that the law is continually broken, and yet takes no steps to enforce it, which is all I ask him to do. The hon. Member for Aberdeen appears to hold a brief for the trawlers. He talks of the experiment which is being made in the Moray Firth. It would be a good experiment for the line fishermen if the foreign trawlers were kept out of the Moray Firth, but no effort is being made to exclude them, and that is what I complain of. We expect

the Secretary for Scotland to look after the welfare of Scotland in this matter. The hon. Member for Aberdeen talked about international negotiations. The Secretary for Scotland should bring about an international agreement with regard to the line fishermen, who are simply being ruined by his neglecting to give effect to the powers he already possesses. Another matter which I constantly have to complain of is the sea police and the neglect of the Secretary for Scotland to look after the cruisers provided for the Scotch Office for the purpose of protecting the interests of the line fishermen. I am not speaking of the cruisers of the Fishery Board, but the cruisers loaned to the Scotch Office by the Admiralty. I asked the other day about the "Jackal," and I found that during four months she was only 77 days at sea. Another matter I wish to refer to, which is especially under the control of the Secretary for Scotland, is the harbour accommodation for fishermen. First of all there is Portness harbour. I saw this harbour many years ago before the Scotch Office interfered with it. It was always a dangerous place, but since it has been taken over by the Scotch Office it has become much more dangerous; the indifference which is shown to the state of this harbour is simply scandalous, and as a result there are more widows and orphans of fishermen in that district than in any other part of the British Islands. For the right hon. Gentleman who represents the Scotch Office in this House to sit on the Government Bench and remain silent when he ought to speak is not the proper way for him to act. I got a promise from the Lifeboat Association that when this harbour was finished the question of placing a lifeboat there would be considered. Notwithstanding the fact that the harbour is so dangerous the Scotch Secretary does nothing. We were told on the 7th of this month that the Secretary for Scotland could not intervene further than he had done, and that he could not interfere directly. Why not? I want some action taken. We are told there is litigation, but litigation has been going on for years. Unfortunately, the Secretary for Scotland does not know the district. It is not fair that he should neglect such important matters. Now I come to the harbour of Portmahomack. The President of the Board of Trade inti-

mated that money would be set aside for the purpose of helping the construction of harbours, especially at places where the people were not able to carry out the work themselves. This is just one of the places that should be helped, but nothing has been done. I asked the other day what amount of local contributions would be required to justify an approach to the Treasury for a special grant in aid of the work, and I was told "two-thirds." But in such a district it is impossible. Another harbour I wish to refer to is Portnagurran, Island of Lewis. That was recommended by the predecessors of the present Government. A Commission appointed in 1890 went down to the place and recommended it as a suitable spot for a harbour of refuge. Such a harbour, which is very sadly needed, would cost something like £30,000. We know that this is a sum largely in excess of any amount which the Congested Districts Board can give. It is because the Congested Districts Board is unable to construct such a harbour that I asked the Secretary for Scotland to approach the Treasury. We are told that a pier was put up on the other side of Broad Bay, Island of Lewis, but that is not the slightest use. It is intolerable that we should be shunted about from pillar to post in this way, and because of the indifference of the Secretary for Scotland I beg to move to reduce his salary by the sum of £50.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £50, in respect of the salary of the Secretary for Scotland."—(Mr. Weir.)

*SIR JOHN LUBBOCK (London University): My hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn spoke in terms of just praise of the Marine Biological Laboratory, but scarcely did justice to the Scottish Fishery Board. As one who has paid some attention to natural history all my life, I should like to recognise the debt of gratitude which we owe to the Scottish Fishery Board for its valuable work. As to the question of the extension of the territorial limit, it might no doubt be an advantage on certain parts of the Scottish coast to extend the limits, but the question must be treated as a whole, and cannot be considered from the point of view of one particular district only.

Mr. Weir.

*MR. R.C. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs): The first subject raised this evening was the constitution of the local fishery committees. There is one point in support of the constituting of these committees that I wish to bring before the notice of the right hon. Gentleman opposite, and that is the provision of bait. There is no doubt that line fishing in Scotland is considerably handicapped by the deficiency in the supply of bait, and that the ownership of bait is not a popular form of property. If these committees were established I believe a larger supply of bait would be forthcoming. It has not been popular in many parts of the country to own the scalps where the bait is obtained, and it is still more difficult to start mussel-beds on new ground. If these rights were exercised very grave difficulties between the fishermen and the officials would be the result. I think also that we should have suitable ground put under mussels, for very great benefit would result from it to the fishing industry. The other subject which I will very briefly refer to is the protection of the line fishermen against the trawlers. For my part I do not quite follow the argument of my right hon. friend the Member for South Aberdeen, and I find myself a good deal more in accord with the work accomplished by the Solicitor-General in the Moray Firth. The only thing I regret about this is that the Solicitor-General has not been able to complete his work there. But if these foreign trawlers can come down into the Moray Firth and land their fish at English ports, that upsets all the work done by the Solicitor-General in closing the Moray Firth. Experience has shown that in the narrow waters the whole supply of fish can be taken out by the trawlers, and the English Channel has been almost entirely cleared of fish by these trawlers. Then again the line fishermen have a very serious cause of complaint, because their lines are carried away by the trawlers. This is a very severe grievance under which the line fishermen suffer, and I do hope that something may be done either by an international arrangement, or by local regulation to protect the line fishermen against unnecessary damage. I think the question of an international arrangement might have been more vigorously pushed forward, although we recognised that the recent conference in Sweden will do some good, and we look forward with con-

fidence to regulations being made in order to meet the justice of the case. We all agree with what my right hon. friend the Member for Aberdeen said with respect to a scientific inquiry, although there has been a good deal of controversy upon the book which Professor Mackintosh wrote on this subject. We have only got now to the fringe of the subject in regard to scientific investigation, and in the fishing industry, as in agriculture and many other of our main industries, I believe that a little money spent by the State will result in the return of many thousands of pounds to that particular industry. I am sure there is no one in this House who would object to money being granted for scientific investigation.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): I am afraid that an important experiment may be spoiled because the Scottish Office has not carried out a suggestion which we understood was going to be carried out many years ago. Ten years ago the Solicitor-General put into the Herring Fishery Act a clause empowering the Fishery Board to prevent the landing at certain ports in Scotland of fish illegally taken in the Moray Firth; but the hon. and learned Gentleman was not prepared to go to the whole extent of Great Britain, because if he had done so he would have been met with the opposition of the English trawlers. Now although we have prevented these foreign trawlers from selling their fish in Scotland, they can still come down to Hull and Grimsby to sell their fish, and surely they should also be prohibited in English ports as well as Scotch. Ten years have elapsed, and in that great inland water white fish entirely disappeared, but in three years under proper protection white fish have come back again. The experiments made in this matter are vitiated by the fact that although foreign trawlers can come into the Moray Firth, English trawlers cannot come there. The way to remedy this is to amend the Herring Fishery Act by leaving out the word "Scotland" and substituting "Great Britain," and then they could not go into either Irish or English ports to sell the fish which they are prohibited from selling in Scotland. I understand that the English trawling industry would have no objection to that. The English trawlers are very smart, and they are turning themselves into foreign trawlers, because

in the capacity of English trawlers they cannot do what they are permitted to do as foreigners. We have had a Select Committee of this House which sat a couple of years ago, before which evidence was given by every class of fishermen, the English trawlers being well represented. The practical evidence of the men who had been twenty or thirty years working as trawlers was that under the present steam system the growth and development of young fish could not go on, because the trawler was there night and day, with the result that you have practically destroyed all the nurseries of your fish in both the German Ocean and the British Channel. The result is that the price of fish has increased four or five fold what it was under the old system. Now the trawlers have got to go further and further afield to fish, in the Bay of Biscay and other places. The Bill was passed, and an Amendment was inserted by Lord Salisbury under curious conditions, because it was put in after the Bill had been read a third time, which cannot be done under the regulations of this House.

*THE CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member is not in order in discussing matters of legislation in Committee of Supply.

DR. CLARK : I was only incidentally mentioning that this Amendment was inserted after the Third Reading, a thing which we cannot do in this House. Upon this subject we have urged upon different occasions reforms, and we have brought pressure to bear upon the Secretary for Scotland because we thought it was incumbent upon the noble Lord to see that the Bill was made effective. It is said that we ought not to permit any extension of the three-mile limit, and that if we did we would be striking at the naval power of Great Britain. But surely we could have an extension for scientific and fishery purposes. Such an agreement could be arrived at with foreign Powers, and several of them desire it. The greatest obstacle to it has been the British Government working in the interests of a certain class of English fishermen. The grievance of the Scottish fishermen is twofold. First of all, certain areas ought to be marked off for trawlers, and others for line fishermen into which trawlers could not come. Then, again, the Scottish Office ought to be able, with the concurrence of the President of the Board of Trade, to have the provision forbidding foreign fishing

smacks selling their fish in Scotland extended to England also. I hope the Board of Trade will not object to a measure of that kind.

MR. ASHER (Elgin Burghs) : I should wish, before the right hon. and learned Gentlemen replies to the various questions which have been raised, to direct attention to the extremely unsatisfactory condition of the law at present with regard to the Moray Firth. I represent a very large number of fishermen on the Moray Firth, and it is impossible for anyone to visit that district without becoming aware of the very great amount of inconvenience and dissatisfaction which prevails in that locality, due to some extent to a cause which it is entirely in the power of the Scottish Office to remove. I desire to associate myself with all that my hon. friends have said with reference to the great desirability of some effort being made by the Government to effect a new convention with the sea Powers in the North Sea, with a view to the extension of the fishing limit. I believe in adopting that view we would be acting on the confirmed opinion founded on experience of the whole fishing population on the East Coast of Scotland. It is quite true they are not scientific men, but they have a great deal of experience in this matter, and the result of that experience is that trawling in the immediate vicinity of the coast not only interferes with line fishing, but is so destructive to young fish as to be highly prejudicial to fishing interests generally. What is the position of the law at present with regard to the Moray Firth ? By the legislation of this country, trawlers are prohibited from landing fish trawled in the Firth in any port in Scotland. We know quite well that it is entirely beyond the power of the Government or the Scotch Office or this House to pass any law which would have the effect of excluding foreign trawlers from the waters outside the three-mile limit. We are quite aware also, when we press that an effort should be made to extend the limit, that it is a matter requiring great consideration, and that there are difficulties in the way which the Government might find it almost impossible to get over. We all know how difficult it is to get the North Sea Powers to agree in matters of this kind, and we also know that larger questions may be brought forward at the same

Dr. Clark.

time, involving considerations not exclusively connected with fishery matters. We are not so unreasonable as not to realise the difficulties which exist, but there is a matter with regard to which no similar difficulty arises. One of the great grievances of the Scottish fishermen at the present time is that foreign trawlers in the Moray Firth, although they are not entitled to land their fish in Scotch ports, are entitled to land it in English ports. It is entirely within the power of the Government to effect a remedy in that matter, and what I desire to direct the attention of my right hon. and learned friend opposite to is whether the Government will not seriously consider the propriety of making a change in the law which will have the effect of rendering it illegal for foreign trawlers to land fish trawled in the Moray Firth at any port in the United Kingdom. I do not say that that would be a complete remedy for the grievance of which we complain. Undoubtedly what we desire is a convention having the effect of excluding trawlers altogether; but we believe, upon very strong grounds indeed, that if it were illegal for foreign trawlers to land fish caught in the Moray Firth in any port in the United Kingdom it would have the effect of reducing, and probably removing the grievance altogether. It is a very simple matter, and I am quite sure if the Government introduced a Bill for this purpose —

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must rule out of order any remarks upon or discussion of proposed legislation. The question before the Committee is the salary of the Secretary for Scotland in his administrative capacity.

MR. ASHER: I base my appeal to the right hon. and learned Gentleman, as a matter of administration, on the propriety of steps being taken to prevent trawled fish being landed at any port in the United Kingdom.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): As an Irishman I think I may congratulate Scotland on the manner in which its fisheries are being looked after. I remember when, after evidence, a law was brought in which prohibited steam trawlers trawling within three miles of the Scottish coast. I believe that law has worked most advantageously for Scotland, and that a

great deal of harm has been stopped; but I very much regret to say that what has done Scotland good has done Ireland a great deal of harm. The Irish authorities care very little for the fishing industry, and the steam trawlers which were sent away from Scotland now invade our coasts, and we have no power to stop them. The Inspectors of Irish Fisheries have laid down certain regulations, but the steam trawlers ignore them, and the Treasury will not even assist us to the extent of giving us a gun-boat to enforce the regulations which the Fishery Inspectors have established. I hope the matter will have the attention of the Government.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The hon. Member for Banffshire asked me to tell him what has been done by the Secretary for Scotland in respect of the power conferred on him by Section 5 of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act. The hon. Member for Leith also dealt with this subject, and both hon. Members brought forward this matter especially with reference to the difficulty that had been felt with regard to the supply of bait, and they indicated their view that local committees should be formed for the cultivation of bait. I cannot dissent from what they have said on the question, because it is a matter of very great importance to the fishermen of Scotland. It is not altogether an easy matter to deal with. I would remind the Committee that the experiment was recently made by taking over with a view to cultivation the mussel beds of the Clyde, but I am sorry to say that the result has been to involve us in litigation. Unfortunately local feeling was against the experiment in one of the places selected, and of course as long as human nature is human nature people will not like being excluded from taking bait from a place from which they have been used to take it. When I come to what is my actual business in this matter, the pressure, namely, on the Secretary for Scotland to take action, I am bound to say that the Secretary for Scotland could not have done anything under Section 5 of the Act, because the only condition under which he could act had not arisen. So far as I know, only two applications have been made at all—by Buckie and Cockenzie. In the case of Cockenzie it was found that

the application was for too small a district; and in the case of Buckie they ran straight against Section 5, because they had not the consent of the other local authorities, and therefore they could not go on. The Secretary for Scotland had, therefore, done nothing, because the condition under which he could act had not come into force. Passing from that, we come to the well-worn fishery question. It was raised by the hon. Member for Aberdeenshire on the matter of the thirteen mile limit. The hon. Member used rather strong language, which would suggest that the North Sea Conference which had taken place lately was a mere device on the part of the Government to shelve the subject.

*MR. WEIR: Hear, hear.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty says "Hear, hear." He ranges himself on the side of the hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire, whose words were that the Conference was meant to hoodwink the country, and that no practical result could be expected because the Conference only made a scientific inquiry. I should rather have thought that scientific inquiry was necessary, in order that from what was found out you might deduce practical results. I do not know any branch of learning, art, or study in which we do not have to begin with a scientific inquiry, and then to go on to apply in a practical way the data so obtained. I do not blame one atom the general tone of the discussion, for I do not think that the hon. Member's view was endorsed by any other hon. Gentleman who spoke. We have had a good deal of expression on the other side of the subject. We have had a speech from the hon. Member for King's Lynn. Anyone who heard that speech, and who came to the subject with a fresh mind, might have got the idea that trawling was most beneficial to fish culture. Surely scientific investigation would be at least of some use if it stops the mouth of the hon. Member for King's Lynn. I have sufficient confidence in the views expressed by the great majority of hon. Members who have spoken, to think that scientific investigation would show that to allow trawling everywhere is not the wisest way to cultivate fish. So far as my personal sympathies are concerned I go along with

the expression that was dropped by the hon. Baronet the Member for North Norfolk, that the fishery on the coast ought to be recognised as the natural provision for the line fishermen. But this is not a question of personal proclivities, but a question of intricate difficulty. I think the hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire will see on reflection that the Scientific Conference was all to the good, and that we may expect some practical results from it. My right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade reminds me that our delegates to the Conference got instructions of a character that enabled them to raise any practical question as flowing from the scientific questions, so that practical questions must necessarily come in. I cannot conceive that we did not get a feasible basis for approaching the case. At the same time this is, of course, a very delicate question so far as actual action goes. No one regrets more than I do the practical difficulties that are connected with the Moray Firth. I regret it for the reason put forward by the hon. Member for Caithness and others. I think a very crucial and useful experiment has been spoiled by the action of the foreign trawlers in that neighbourhood. But at the same time I do not see what more could have been done. It is quite clear that we could not have excluded the foreign trawlers; and it is quite clear that without legislation we could not prevent the fish being landed in England. As hon. Members know, the Secretary for Scotland has power to prevent the fish being landed in Scotland. I would be very glad to see the law altered in the sense in which several hon. Members have spoken; but that is beyond me and the Department for which I am speaking, and, moreover, it may not commend itself to all parties in the House. The hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty seems to think that the Secretary for Scotland without going to the foreign Powers could do something specially for the West Coast. I have tried to explain this matter to the hon. Member, and I must have done it badly, for he always returns to the charge and makes of it as much a grievance as ever. He seems to think he puts me in a dilemma by first saying that this is a case in which the North Sea signatories are the first persons to be consulted in regard to the thirteen mile limit; and when I say "Yes," he asks me to say that the

Mr. A. Graham Murray.

Western Islands are not in the North Sea.

*MR. WEIR : I never said anything of the kind. I called attention to the wants of the West Coast, where the Secretary for Scotland can make bye-laws without consulting the Foreign Powers.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY : He asked categorically whether the Western Islands were in the North Sea, and I told him they were not.

*MR. WEIR : The Secretary for Scotland insists that the provisions of the North Sea Convention extend right round our coasts. My contention is that that is not so.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY : We have got to this point—a statement that the Secretary for Scotland, without consulting the signatories to the North Sea Convention, may extend the thirteen-mile limit to the West Coast. Well, to that I give a categorical denial. Section 10 of the Statute says that the Fishery Board may by bye-law prohibit trawling within thirteen miles of the Scotch coast, provided that no area of the sea within that limit shall be deemed to be under the jurisdiction of Her Majesty for the purpose of the section, unless that shall be accepted as binding upon their own subjects with respect to such area by all the States signatories of the North Sea Convention. The matter is really too plain for argument. What the hon. Member seemingly cannot bring himself to believe is that the North Sea Powers may have an interest as to where their subjects can go, although the places where their subjects go may not be in the North Sea. And therefore, rightly or wrongly, when the power was given to the Fishery Board in Scotland to forbid trawling within thirteen miles, that was conditioned by saying that nothing shall be held to be within the jurisdiction of Her Majesty unless you get the assent of the North Sea signatory Powers. I think the Committee will see that in this matter the Secretary for Scotland could not have done what the hon. Member urges he should have done. As I have said before, we do not propose to make any alteration in the existing Act, and we propose to put in force every

power we have got. One or two other small matters have been mentioned in the course of the discussion. The hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty referred to Portmahomack Harbour. I have already told the hon. Member how that matter stands. He has asked why the Scottish Office does not interfere. We do not interfere because, if we did, we should make the Scottish Office liable for the contractors' account, which at present it is not liable for. The hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire has asked a question as to the mode of distribution of the grant in connection with the alteration of boundaries. I can assure him that it is done in accordance with a legal ruling which was given, not by me, but by my predecessor, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Clackmannan (Mr. J. B. Balfour). The Secretary for Scotland was advised by my right hon. friend that it would not be according to law to distribute the grant in any other way than is done at present.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.) : I will not be so rash as to enter into the discussion which has raged so furiously around the Moray Firth, or into the vexed question of line fishing. But I desire to endorse the remarks of the Lord Advocate with regard to the great importance of the scientific investigations now being carried on under the superintendence of Professor MacKintosh. Of course the old antagonism goes on between science and practice. It is very inconvenient for so-called practical men to have some of their more cherished superstitions demolished by the advance of science, and in this respect I allude especially to those who take a certain side in fishery matters. I hope these admirable investigations will be carried on, and that the Government will not stint the contributions from the Treasury, convinced as I am that nothing but good can come from the Conference. I should, however, like to know (1) what instructions the British delegates are going to get before they leave this country ; and (2) who they are.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) : I very readily and gladly welcome the expression of personal sympathy from the Lord Advocate upon the question which has been under discussion. I for one am perfectly sure that that sentiment will not

hinder any action in the direction which most of us upon this side of the House desire to see the Scotch Department take. But while I may be allowed to welcome that expression of personal sympathy of the Lord Advocate, we must remember that we have not to deal simply with the Lord Advocate in his personal capacity. We have to deal with the Scottish Office, and those of us who are interested in fishing constituencies in Scotland have some cause to find fault with the action, or rather inaction, of that Department. The Scottish Office has not done all that it might have done to develop and multiply the bait beds on the north-east coast of Scotland. I altogether share the views which have been expressed by the hon. Member for the Elgin Burghs with reference to the vexed and difficult question in connection with the Moray Firth. There is no doubt that it is a very great grievance in that part of Scotland that foreign trawlers should have the right to fish in the Moray Firth, and should find convenient ports in England for the disposal of their fish, which they are not permitted to sell in Scottish ports. I do not think that the Scottish Office, having regard to the views which have been so strongly expressed by the Lord Advocate, have done all they might to remedy the grievance. The next point upon which I think we have some reason to complain is with reference to the Stockholm Conference. Again and again during this session we have pressed the Lord Advocate to afford us some information as to the British delegates who are to represent this country at the Conference, and not only that, but we have asked again and again for information with regard to the scope of that Conference, and to this day we have not had the slightest information upon these points, either from the Lord Advocate or the First Lord of the Treasury. I cannot for myself see why this should be made a mystery of. In connection with this matter an important deputation, representing the fishermen and the fishing constituencies in the North of Scotland, recently had the privilege of waiting upon the Prime Minister, and one of the main objects of that deputation was to impress upon the Prime Minister the necessity, in the interests of an industry which, I believe, finds employment for something like £50,000 men in Scotland, of extending the

fishing limit. I must say that the Prime Minister received that deputation very sympathetically, and led us to believe that so far as in him lay the matter would not be neglected. He also expressed the hope that something might be done at the Conference which would enable the Government to take steps to extend the limit. Under these circumstances we are fairly entitled to complain of the attitude of the Scottish Office, and if my hon. friend takes a Division on the subject I shall certainly feel obliged, while I have no wish to diminish the Vote, to go into the Lobby with him, in order to add weight to the opinion which has been expressed on this side of the House with regard to the action of the Scottish Office. At the same time I wish to make one or two observations upon the speech of the hon. Member for King's Lynn. We all know the very great interest which the hon. Member takes in everything connected in the slightest degree either with the Navy or with anything which is marine, and he has shown to-day that he takes a very great interest also in Scottish fisheries. He has given us a great deal of good advice, and he has told us, in effect, that we are poor ignorant creatures, and know nothing about fishery matters at all, and that we are under many delusions, one of them being our belief in the Fishery Board of Scotland. We have all been under the hallucination until now that the Scotch Fishery Board has done a great deal of excellent work, and is an admirable institution, and it has remained for the hon. Member for King's Lynn to tell us that it is an entire delusion, and that the Scottish Fishery Board is of no value whatever, and the sooner we abolish it the better. Another "delusion" is that the closing of the Moray Firth had been of some advantage to the community in that part of Scotland, for the hon. Member for King's Lynn has made the discovery that the closing of the Moray Firth is a foolish and suicidal Act. The hon. Member for King's Lynn is, no doubt, a great authority on naval matters, but I venture to say that the knowledge which is acquired from experience, and from direct contact with fishermen who have spent their lives upon the sea, is of much more value than the advice hurled at our heads across the floor of this House by the hon. Member for King's Lynn. I cannot altogether agree with my right hon. friend the Member

Mr. Hedderwick.

for South Aberdeen that it would be an extremely difficult thing to come to an arrangement in dealing with sea Powers. No doubt there might be some difficulty in coming to an agreement with all the other Powers interested, but it should be the endeavour of statesmanship to overcome difficulties. This is not a mere fish question ; it is a question of men as well, for on one side you have some 50,000 hard-working fishermen, and on the other some 6,000 men employed on trawlers. Surely that of itself, especially when we bear in mind the character of these men, and their value to this country as a great sea-going Power, ought to stimulate us to do everything we possibly can to protect such a large, industrious, and highly-deserving class of the community.

*MR. WEIR : I hope that before this matter is disposed of the Lord Advocate will make some reference to the large number of holidays granted to the men on the Admiralty cruisers engaged in protection duties. The cruisers are sent to

perform a certain work, and I hope the right hon. Gentleman will see that they perform it.

DR. CLARK : Might I suggest that this should be discussed under the next Vote ?

*MR. WEIR : I am quite in order under this Vote, and I have too much regard for the time of the House to discuss a matter which is out of order.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY : The Admiralty have lent these ships for a specific purpose, and they carry out the duties assigned to them efficiently. It is out of the question for the Secretary for Scotland to interfere with the amount of leave given to the seamen on Her Majesty's ships. I think the answer which I gave to this question on a former occasion was a sufficient one, and I must respectfully decline to interfere.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 71 ; Noes, 134. (Division List, No. 269.)

AYES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)	Duckworth, James	Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Allison, Robert Andrew	Dunn, Sir William	O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
Atherley-Jones, L.	Esmonde, Sir Thomas	Palmer, Sir Chas M. (Durham)
Austin, Sir John (Yorkshire)	Farquharson, Dr. Robert	Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Barlow, John Emmott	Fenwick, Charles	Pickard, Benjamin
Bilson, Alfred	Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond	Reckitt, Harold James
Bolton, Thomas Dolling	Foster, Sir Walter (DerbyCo.)	Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson	Goddard, Daniel Ford	Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn	Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-	Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Burt, Thomas	Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H.	Souttar, Robinson
Caldwell, James	Horniman, Frederick John	Steadman, William Charles
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)	Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)	Sullivan, Donald (Westmeath)
Cameron, Robert (Durham)	Kilbride, Denis	Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton	Kinloch, Sir Jno. Geo. Smith	Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Channing, Francis Allston	Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb.)	Wallace, Robert
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Leng, Sir John	Wedderburn, Sir William
Clough, Walter Owen	Llewellyn, Sir Leonarl	Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Colville, John	Macaleese, Daniel	Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
Crombie, John William	McGhee, Richard	Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
Dalziel, James Henry	M'Leod, John	Wilson, John (Govan)
Davitt, Michael	Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe	Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Dewar, Arthur	Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand	
Donegan, Captain A.	Molloy, Bernard Charles	TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Doogan, P. C.	Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)	Mr. Weir and Mr. Hedderwick.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)	Moulton, John Fletcher	

NOES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Banbury, Frederick George	Butcher, John George
Arnold, Alfred	Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
Arrol, Sir William	Bartley, George C. T.	Carlile, William Walter
Asher, Alexander	Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worl'd)
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)	Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Baird, John George Alexander	Blundell, Colonel Henry	Charrington, Spencer
Baldwin, Alfred	Bowles, T. Gibson (KingsLynn)	Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Coddington, Sir William

Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John C. Ready
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. L. H.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cruddas, William Donaldson
 Curzon, Vicount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.
 Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc.)
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finlay, Sir R. Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas,
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameror.
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.

Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
 Keimp, George
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lowies, John
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh)
 M'Killop, James
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E.
 Middlemore, John T.
 Monk, Charles James
 More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'tsh)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.

Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Sir Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Thornburn, Walter
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcester, N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I wish to move the reduction of this Vote by £500, in order to call attention to what I consider to be a case of gross maladministration in Scotland. My reason for moving to reduce the salary of the Secretary for Scotland is because he is responsible for the police of the country, and although this case also comes in another Vote, I think it would be better to discuss the whole question under this rather than to discuss a part now and a part in another. The case I refer to is that of Dr. Lamont, recently medical officer of South Uist. When Dr. Lamont was appointed to his post in South Uist a virulent epidemic was raging through the island, the length of which is thirty-eight miles, and its greatest breadth eight miles; and in dealing with that epidemic Dr. Lamont showed such indefatigable zeal and such disregard for personal danger—travelling day and night over his wide parish which was originally divided into two, and for half of which another man had been appointed, who, seeing that what he had to do was an impossibility, resigned,

that he received a special letter from the Local Government Board conveying to him the Board's high appreciation of his conduct. The sheriff, who made an investigation at the instance of the Local Government Board into some gross case of neglect and incompetency that had taken place during the epidemic, also spoke in the highest terms of Dr. Lamont, and censured the officials of the parish council. But friction having arisen owing to Dr. Lamont's action in connection with an outbreak of scarlatina in some schools which he caused to be closed, his action being upheld by the Local Government Board, the parish council interfered and he was discharged, and vacated his office in July. He came to London and secured the position of medical officer in the Poplar Workhouse. Dr. Lamont's new duties were not to begin until September, and he had left his personal effects in the island. He returned to the island later in order to get his effects and spend the time until he came up to assume his new duties, but when some of his enemies saw him return they feared that he was going to settle among them again. They accord-

ingly determined to get rid of him, and some charges, pronounced by a jury to be unfounded, were trumped up against him, and a warrant was issued for his apprehension on September 10 last year. The alleged offences had been committed in the previous year during the heat of his engagements owing to the epidemic. Dr. Lamont was told by a policeman that some charge was being brought against him, and he had better not leave the island until that matter was dealt with. But he, having to go south on September 15th, informed the policeman that he would be found at his mother's house in Glasgow. On September 17th, at midnight, a policeman came to the house in Glasgow, dragged the doctor out of bed, lodged him in the prison cells over Saturday and Sunday, and finally he was brought up in court on Monday morning and sent back in custody of the police to South Uist, where he was put in the cells for another night, being brought before the acting sheriff next day. So far as I have been able to find out, Dr. Lamont was arrested without a warrant being in the hands of the police at all. No one has been able to see the warrant, and when we applied to see it the right hon. Gentleman was under the impression that during the four days that this unfortunate man was in the cells no warrant existed. The Procurator Fiscal in the island, who has shown the greatest malice in the matter, on a telegram from the chief constable of Inverness, took steps to arrest Dr. Lamont in Glasgow; but the law on the subject is that a warrant only runs in the district under the jurisdiction of the magistrate issuing it. The warrant should have been endorsed in Glasgow, but it was neither endorsed nor sent there at all. If the police had been in possession of the warrant unendorsed Dr. Lamont's arrest would have been illegal. The only person who can be treated as Dr. Lamont was treated is a convict under licence, who can be arrested without a warrant if it is thought that he is getting his living by dishonest means. The charge brought against the doctor was that of fabricating and issuing false certificates—in other words, something very like forgery. The offence, if any was committed, was against the regulations issued by the Local Government Board as to the Vaccination Act, not an offence at common law. But nobody knows what those regulations are; neither Dr. Lamont nor

anyone else has ever seen those regulations, and search has been made for them in vain in the Reports of the Board of supervision. The warrant, moreover, was not entered in the books of the Sheriff. I doubt the statements which have been made, because the information given to us by the right hon. Gentleman during the whole course of the case has been notoriously inaccurate. I acquit the right hon. Gentleman of any intention to deceive, but he will admit what I state, and therefore I am not inclined to trust without some documentary corroboration any other statements coming from the same source. Then, allowing the existence of a possible criminal attempt, the amount in question was of the very smallest and most paltry character, but the bail demanded was £100. Dr. Lamont went off on this bail, and a fresh warrant was issued. On that warrant another attempt was made to arrest him. Again a policeman went to his mother's house and bullied the old lady to such an extent that at last she gave the doctor's address in London. How in the world did the Crown Office ever permit these extraordinary proceedings in the case of a purely technical offence at the very outside, and where a moment's reflection and inspection would have shown them that it was a trumped-up offence? Had the police a warrant when they went to Dr. Lamont's mother's house to arrest him on this second offence? On whose authority was it that that transaction took place? But the worst matter in the whole case is the way in which these warrants were obtained. Not only was the sheriff the committing sheriff who gave warrant after warrant, but during the whole time he was issuing these warrants he was being paid substantial sums as a witness. That is a thing which every man here will deprecate. I cannot conceive such a course being pursued in England, and by way of bringing the matter to an issue I beg to move the reduction of this Vote by £500.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £500, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary for Scotland."—(Sir Charles Cameron.)

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am placed in a somewhat difficult position in

this matter. I am very anxious to avoid saying anything which would seem either unsympathetic towards Dr. Lamont, or in any way to appear that I am not fully conscious of the really excellent services of Dr. Lamont on the island. But the hon. Baronet has treated this case scarcely wisely, and has circulated a pamphlet which shows a thorough ignorance of the criminal procedure of his own country. He draws such erroneous deductions that it is absolutely impossible for me to allow the matter to stand as he has left it, and not to explain to the Committee, as I should, how, although I exceedingly regret that Dr. Lamont was subjected to the indignity of imprisonment, that imprisonment was perfectly legal. There are two separate matters—that of the prosecution and that of the arrest. The hon. Baronet has talked about it as a trumped-up charge, a small inaccuracy, and being under the Vaccination Acts. It was not under the Vaccination Acts at all. It was a prosecution at common law for falsely uttering a certificate, and I should be very much astonished if anyone in this House would get up and say that for a man in a good position, who was discharging a public duty, knowingly to put his hand to a certificate that he knew would be used for a legal purpose, and who knew that the statement to which he was putting his hand was not true—

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I am sure the right hon. Gentleman would wish me to correct an omission of mine. The jury unanimously found Dr. Lamont innocent.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am perfectly aware of that, and I would very much sooner not have gone into the question of the prosecution at all. But the hon. Baronet must remember that juries are entitled to take some liberties and very often to find persons innocent when they think the merits of the accused on ordinary occasions have been such as to justify them in finding the charge not proved.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): No one ever heard of such a doctrine as that. Surely the verdict is conclusive.

Mr. A. Graham Murray.

MR. ASQUITH (Fife, E.): What was the verdict?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The verdict was "Not guilty," and it is conclusive as to the question of whether or not Dr. Lamont was guilty of the crime. I am not for one moment attempting to say that it is otherwise, but it is not conclusive as to the question of what evidence was before the prosecutor when he ordered the trial. The point I was arguing was whether a charge against a doctor of falsely issuing certificates can be considered as a trivial and trumped-up charge. The evidence upon which the case went to trial consisted of sixteen charges, and that in all those sixteen charges there had been a certificate given without the doctor having seen the patient after vaccination. In nine of those cases it is alleged he gave a certificate for a successful vaccination the moment he had vaccinated, but he qualified that by saying that he understood the certificate would not be used unless the operation did turn out successfully. The evidence given in Dr. Lamont's behalf at the trial consisted to a large extent of the statements of other doctors, who said that they were in the habit of granting certificates of successful vaccination when they had not seen the children, but had had information conveyed to them that the vaccination was successful. I should be very much surprised if medical Members in the House would uphold that as a right practice. I do not want to say anything against Dr. Lamont to lose him the benefit of his verdict, but on the other hand I think I am justified in asking Members to believe that the evidence on those sixteen charges was such as would certainly warrant a conviction.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: How many cases were on the petition when the original arrest was made, and when the four nights' imprisonment in the police cells were suffered?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: There were as far as I know, six or seven, or something like that in the original—it may be only four or five; but, as matter of fact, before the thing was done, there

were from thirty-five to forty cases put forward. Of those all but sixteen were rejected, and the trial actually proceeded upon those sixteen cases. The others were rejected because the evidence was not considered to be sufficient. On the matter of the prosecution, it is utterly unheard of to allege that there is a miscarriage of justice when you are in a position to say that on sixteen charges you had evidence quite clear as far as it went, sufficient to justify a conviction. Then I come to the question of the arrest. The initial grievance of the hon. Baronet is as to what he calls the "warrant." Everybody would suppose from his speech that when you got a warrant you want specially to make an arrest. In Scotland you do nothing of the sort. Under the Scotch law, when the Procurator Fiscal proposes to institute proceedings against anyone he goes to the sheriff with a petition, which says that he has reason to believe that So-and-so is guilty of so-and-so, and therefore he asks to be empowered to examine witnesses upon oath, if necessary, and also to arrest the accused person in order to have him brought up on the first step of Scotch procedure—viz., declaration. Upon that he is committed by the sheriff for trial. As a matter of fact, every petition for trial of any sort in Scotland contains a warrant of arrest. But the law is always very temperately carried out. If a person is not expected to become a fugitive from justice the warrant is not executed, and the Crown Office are always very anxious that arrest should never be made unless absolutely necessary. All the powers of the Procurator Fiscal as to examining witnesses and so on are based on that warrant.

An hon. MEMBER: A very serious question has been raised as to whether there was such a warrant. Can the Lord Advocate assure the House that there was?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: Of course there was; I have seen it. That is one of the most extraordinary insinuations in the pamphlet.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: No; I say there is no proof whatever that the deed of committal was signed.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: What could be the necessity for fabricating the idea that there was a warrant? The Procurator had it in his power to get a warrant on any day of the week. The hon. Baronet has made an incursion into the Sheriff's Court Books, and seemed to think it wrong that the warrant had not been recorded in those books. As a matter of fact, warrants at common law trials never are recorded in the Sheriff's Court Books, and, furthermore, if they had been it would not have shown him anything, because there is no rule as to recording the date. Now comes the first real conflict of testimony. It is said that Dr. Lamont had been warned by the police that something was being brought against him, and that he ought not to go away. Dr. Lamont says he told the police officer he was going away to his mother's in Glasgow, and that the police officer raised no objection. There he is contradicted directly. The police officer says that, so far from telling him he was going away, he rather concealed his departure and went at night. Which of those statements is true I have no means of judging. Even assuming Dr. Lamont's version is true, the point is not what Dr. Lamont really said, but what was the representation the police officer made to the Procurator Fiscal. The Procurator Fiscal lived about five hours by steamer away. The police constable wired that Dr. Lamont had left. The Procurator Fiscal, not knowing where he had gone or anything about it, considered that Lamont had broken the understanding that he would stay in the island, and so he wired to the Chief Constable at Inverness saying, "Lamont has absconded. Have him arrested." This is the point in which I consider a mistake was made. I think it would have been more in accordance with the milder administration of justice which we are happily accustomed to in Scotland if the Procurator Fiscal, instead of giving immediate instructions for the arrest of Lamont, had applied to the Crown counsel in Edinburgh, because had they been applied to they would have seen that the arrest was unnecessary. From the very first time the hon. Member interrogated me I have always expressed, and I again express, my great regret that Dr. Lamont was subjected to the indignity of arrest, and that the Procurator Fiscal took the step he did. But the Committee must remember that while I

regret that, it is quite a different matter to say that the arrest was illegal. I must remind the hon. Baronet opposite that if the arrest was illegal there are ways of trying it by a civil action.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: Against whom?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: Against the police. With regard to the definition given in "Bell's Dictionary," that work may be a very convenient *repertoire*, but it is not exactly an authority upon the law of Scotland. I think the hon. Baronet will observe that if "Bell's Dictionary" was quite right, arrest by telegraph would be impossible. It is quite obvious that if people are arrested by telegraph, the warrant cannot possibly be in the hands of the people who carry out the arrest. I do not think it will be found that the arrest was illegal at all. On receiving the communication from the Inverness police that the Procurator Fiscal wished to have Lamont arrested, the Glasgow police acted in the only possible way they could have acted by arresting him. He was arrested on a Saturday night, and the result was that he could not be brought before the magistrate until Monday morning. But when he was brought before the magistrate—and the hon. Baronet left this out altogether—he had seen his agent on the Saturday, and he also saw him on Monday, when he went before the magistrate, and there was not the slightest reason why he or his agent should not have demanded bail there and then. Unfortunately, no such demand was made, and though he went in custody to Lochmaddy to make his declaration he did not suffer any indignity during the journey. As a matter of fact he travelled with an Inverness officer in plain clothes, and there was nothing like being in custody about the affair, for he was allowed to go about the ship like anybody else, and he was not imprisoned.

DR. CLARK: If he went by the mail train and the ordinary steamers, he must have spent one night in the train and one night at the port where he was landed.

Mr. A. Graham Murray.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The hon. Member knows the boats better than I do, but that does not matter. Dr. Lamont was taken straight by whatever conveyance was most convenient, and he was not, so far as I am aware, imprisoned.

DR. CLARK: But where did he spend those two nights?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: My information is that he went straight to Glasgow without being subject to any indignities whatever. My point at this moment is this—that if he had applied for bail in Glasgow he would have got it. The hon. Baronet said that the police took out another warrant, but I think I have explained that this was a necessity under the Scotch law, for after they had found his address, then the report of the case came up in the ordinary way. There was nothing for the Crown counsel to interfere in at that time, because the man was out on bail; if they had found him in custody they might have interfered. That is the whole case; and although I knew nothing of the case at the time, having since looked at the papers, in my humble judgment, so far as the prosecution is concerned, I think it was a perfectly right and justifiable one. I cannot look upon the fact of knowingly giving a certificate which was false as a small matter. I say this in the abstract, and not in reference to Dr. Lamont, because I regard him as an absolved man. What I do say is, that in this case there was proper evidence to go to trial upon. As regards the arrest, I think the Procurator Fiscal erred not on the side of illegality, but on the side of severity by not applying to the Crown counsel before having him arrested. But the arrest, such as it was, was a perfectly legal arrest; and although I have expressed from the first my regret that a man who had done such yeoman service as Dr. Lamont had done should have been subjected to this arrest at Glasgow, yet I cannot look upon him as the victim of mal-administration of justice.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): There are certain points in this case which have not been cleared up by the speech of the right hon. Gentleman. I must say that the whole case is quite a

revelation to me as to the administration of justice in Scotland. I have always had great respect for Scotch law, and for the administration of it; but this case has considerably weakened that respect, and has made me suspicious of the methods by which the law is carried out in Scotland. It is perfectly evident that we have here a case of the most arbitrary action on the part of the authorities and of the police—a method of action which would destroy the authority of the law in any civilised community. It is all very well on such technical grounds to try to justify this procedure, but the procedure in this case was contrary to common sense in the administration of justice, and has inflicted a very great injustice on a man who has deserved well of his country. First of all here is a man who goes down, probably a little too earnest and a little too zealous in his work, to this locality. He devotes himself to the public health of that district with a devotion which calls forth the highest commendation from the Local Government Board of Scotland. In carrying out that work, naturally he excited a certain amount of irritation and jealousy on the part of the local authority; he gets into difficulties with them, and they dismiss him from his post. Here we have an illustration of the injustice of the law with regard to the dismissal of medical officers, for in this case Dr. Lamont had no right of appeal to the Local Government Board.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: That law was passed in 1894, and I personally, and many others, voted for the medical officers having the right of appeal, in cases of dismissal, to the Local Government Board.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: I think that, knowing this was an injustice, it is the duty of the right hon. Gentleman to try and remedy it. There has been a Bill introduced by the hon. Member for Camlachie to alter this, and I hope the right hon. Gentleman will give it an opportunity, at all events next session, of being passed into law. Now, Dr. Lamont, having excited this local indignation, has to suffer from it by these charges. As to the charge of issuing false certificates, I do not defend that for a moment, but let us consider

how far these charges are false. Under the Act of 1863 the medical officer has to make the following declaration in giving a certificate of successful vaccination:—

"I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the child of & -and-so has been successfully vaccinated by me."

That is the certificate of a successful vaccination. Now, I contend that the circumstances of this case show that this was a malicious charge. Let us consider the conditions under which this irregularity in the giving of vaccination certificates occurred. It occurred at a time when a terrible typhus epidemic was raging in that locality. Dr. Lamont was busily engaged vaccinating children many miles away from his home, and during this epidemic he performed many other duties which did not belong to his profession, such as putting the corpses in the coffins and other matters which were outside his ordinary duties, simply because the people were so panic-stricken with this epidemic that they would not go near the bodies. And when Dr. Lamont was doing all these things, the local authority seized that moment to persecute the doctor for not going miles and miles away every day from his fever patients in order to see if a child's vaccination had properly taken. I say that a more malicious charge against a member of an honourable profession I never heard of. That is the condition of things which went on in this locality, and which the Public Prosecutor in that district ought to have considered further before taking the steps he did. The law was actually set in motion by an old antagonist of this medical man, and that is the way in which the whole thing sprang up. That is the kind of conspiracy which went on in this locality against a man doing his duty zealously in the locality, and I think it is only due that all professional men ought to be protected from such charges as these whilst carrying out such responsible and very often difficult work. Having found out that these charges were being made against him, Dr. Lamont immediately communicated with the police, gave them his address, and went to Glasgow to take up duties elsewhere. Now the fact that he gave the police his address ought to have been sufficient, and therefore all necessity for putting this man in prison had ceased, for he gave the police ample opportunity

of finding him. But under this haphazard and scandalous administration of the law in Scotland this gentleman is taken into custody at twelve o'clock on Saturday night; he is put into a police cell, and is not brought out till Monday morning, when he is taken some hundreds of miles in charge of a policeman to undergo the process of making a declaration; and he has to spend another night in prison before he is brought up for this declaration. I say that that is not a proper, judicious, and common-sense administration of the law. It is an injury and indignity to a man which he ought not to have suffered, and although the right hon. Gentleman has expressed in appropriate terms his regret for what was a miscarriage in the administration of justice, I think we ought to have something more. Dr. Lamont was put to a considerable amount of expense, for the sixteen charges were placed before a jury, although the prosecution only relied upon two of them. I desire to point out that the verdict given was not one of "not proven," but the verdict was "not guilty," which gives him a clean sheet, and no one has any right to put an imputation on his character. This case has arisen from administering justice without that common-sense which I believe would have been displayed if the administration of the law had been entrusted to agricultural labourers. A considerable amount of local malice has been displayed, and I think we ought to make some recompense to this gentleman for the indignity put upon a member of an honourable profession, and some compensation should be given to him for the expense and the time and the trouble he has been put to over this stupid and altogether indefensible maladministration of the law in Scotland.

***SIR W. PRIESTLEY** (Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities): I think every Member of the Committee who has listened to this story must be of the opinion that Dr. Lamont has been very harshly treated. Here is a man working through a deadly epidemic in the locality he is placed in, and all at once, without any summons whatever being issued, he is arrested and placed in the position of a felon in prison, where he is allowed to remain from the Saturday till the Monday, and he is given no opportunity to clear himself before the resident magis-

trate. I cannot help expressing my very great regret for this arrest, and I thank the Lord Advocate for taking the view that it is regrettable that this harshness should have been shown towards this unfortunate man. In reference to the signing of a false certificate, which has been explained very adequately by my hon. friend on the Opposition Bench, it is said that Dr. Lamont did not actually know a regulation was in force to the effect that he was to visit the patient for the purpose of seeing that the vaccination was effective before the certificate is signed. I know that a great many doctors do not know such a regulation exists, for many medical men have written to me on the subject recently. No vaccination can be regarded as effective unless it has been seen to take its proper course, but in this locality where Dr. Lamont was living, he often had to traverse thirty-five miles to see his patients. He had, at the same time, this epidemic upon his hands. He was doing his best, trying to save the lives of those who were dying from typhus fever, which is quite different to typhoid fever, and more like "Black Death," for whoever touches the body is liable to infection. And yet Dr. Lamont never shrank from his duty, but did all he could when no one else would go near. Let me here say that I share the regret expressed by the Lord Advocate and the hon. Member for Ilkeston that at the time the Public Health Act was passed we did not give the right of an appeal to the Local Government Board when a medical officer was dismissed. It seems to me that this omission will lead to much misunderstanding, and I think next session there should be a Bill introduced which will remedy this evil. I am not at all disposed to incriminate Dr. Mackenzie, the magistrate who signed the warrant, without knowing more of the whole of the circumstances. He possesses an eminent medical degree, and he has made himself very useful in the parish in which he lives. I feel convinced that he would not have signed the warrant unless he thought he was perfectly right in doing so. I am very anxious indeed to dissociate him from any malice, for I believe he is a man who is not likely to allow prejudice to sway his judgment in matters of this kind. In conclusion, I feel certain that something ought to be done in the way of compensation. I do not know what

Sir Walter Foster.

form it will take, but the Lord Advocate should consider how it can best be done. I also think that some severe reprimand should be administered to the authorities who caused all this unnecessary distress, and who were responsible for this inhuman attack made upon an honourable man.

MR. ASQUITH: I knew nothing of this case until I came down to the House this evening, but having listened carefully, and I hope impartially, to what has been said on both sides, I must express my deliberate opinion that the procedure adopted in this case was a great mistake in the administration of justice in Scotland. I do not agree with the Lord Advocate's statement that there are here *prima facie* grounds for a prosecution. So far as that matter is concerned, I dare say the Procurator Fiscal had no option but to allow the proceedings to be taken, but there could be no justification for his having ordered the arrest of Dr. Lamont for an offence of this kind. It was a very trivial charge against a respectable gentleman who was in a high public position, and who had discharged his duties with the admiration of his neighbours. What did the Procurator Fiscal do? He sent a telegram to Inverness, without taking any steps to discover where Dr. Lamont had gone, to secure his arrest, and he did that in a case which, as I have said, involved a charge of a comparatively trivial character—a charge the initiation of which was surrounded with the very gravest suspicion, because it was preferred against this medical gentleman who had rendered noble and I do not hesitate to say heroic services, at the instance of the very people who had procured his dismissal. If ever there were an occasion when a magistrate was not only justified, but bound to pursue the course which common sense and usage prescribed, it was this. Nevertheless, the Procurator Fiscal telegraphed to Inverness to procure this gentleman's arrest, without taking the precaution of asking the police whether they knew where he was or not. It was an odious process by which this gentleman was arrested in the very place which he himself had given before he left the island. He was arrested at his mother's house in Glasgow, hauled out of his bed on a Saturday night, spent the whole of Sunday in the police cells of Glasgow, and was brought up next day before the magistrates. The

right hon. Gentleman says, "Why did he not ask for bail?" The probability is that he could not have procured bail, because it is not everybody who can procure bail in a town where he himself is not resident. After having been brought up on Monday he was compelled to take a journey in the custody of a police officer, which lasted one day and two nights, and during the whole of that time he was not only technically but actually under arrest. I am bound to say such an incident could not possibly occur on this side of the Tweed. I do not think that my hon. friend, who raised this question most properly in the interests of justice, was going a step too far when he said that if the criminal law of Scotland were administered in such a way the confidence of the Scottish people in the administration of justice would be very greatly shaken. I do trust we shall have a further and more adequate statement from the right hon. Gentleman—who has most handsomely expressed his own personal regret—as to the steps he proposes to take to compensate Dr. Lamont, having regard to the gross absence of all sense of propriety, proportion, and decency on the part of the officials who administer the law.

ADMIRAL FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne): I must say I have never heard of any case of harsher treatment than has been meted out to this unhappy Dr. Lamont. The man's conduct was heroic in the discharge of his duties, and if there were such an order as the civil order of the Victoria Cross I think he would deserve it. I am not, however, going to vote for the diminution of the Lord Advocate's salary. He has done his duty under great difficulties, and has won our approval and admiration, but I think he should speak out in this House more strongly by way of denunciation of these incompetent Scottish officials. God help us if we had such men in our country. I think Dr. Lamont could not have been treated worse if he had been a felon guilty of the most atrocious crime. Why was not a summons issued? The Lord Advocate tells us that a warrant having been received from the Procurator Fiscal it was bound to be carried out. I think these officials should have used their own discretion. I should like to see any member of the Government coming before me and asking for a warrant for the arrest of

any man. Why did not the magistrate offer to bind him over in his own recognisances, which he might have done? The excuse made by the Lord Advocate for this gross miscarriage of justice is inadequate to meet the case, which has not been in any way overstated. If there had been a technical offence committed it could have been met in the ordinary way by a reprimand, and I think the medical gentlemen of this House have made out a strong case for an appeal in such cases to the Local Government Board, instead of poor law officers being, as they are at present, at the mercy of irresponsible, unreflecting, and vindictive officials. I think the whole case from beginning to end was one of vindictive spite. I believe no compensation is possible in this case, and compensation is a difficult thing to give, but if anybody were fool enough to entertain a bad opinion of Dr. Lamont this discussion would re-establish him as a man worthy of our greatest respect and esteem. These men who have failed in their duty should certainly be censured by the Secretary for Scotland, and if Dr. Lamont cannot be compensated, he should at least be awarded the very serious costs he has incurred. I have only risen because I am indignant, and I wish to show as an Englishman and a magistrate that I have sympathy with a case of this kind, and that as an English Member I warmly support the Scotch Members in this matter, and I say we are not satisfied with the answer which has been given. We all admire the Lord Advocate, but we are not satisfied that he has given that amount of official censure which the case demands.

DR. FARQUHARSON: The hon. and gallant Admiral used two words, "vindictive spite," which to my mind indicate the real meaning of this case. I have no doubt that the verdict of this Committee will be the same verdict that Dr. Lamont got from a court of law when he left the court without a stain on his character. I was very much disappointed indeed with the defence of the Lord Advocate. I have no doubt that from a feeling of loyalty to his officials the right hon. Gentleman thought it his duty to defend them against the charge brought against them. This is a case surrounded with more narrow, wretched,

and vindictive spite than I have ever come across in the whole course of my existence. Here was Dr. Lamont working single-handed against death and pestilence. He attacked single-handed typhus fever when others fled; he watched the dying moments of the sufferers, actually put them into their coffins when they died, and I am not sure that he did not bury them with his own hands. Those officials, whose cowardice was very properly denounced by those in authority, afterwards entered into a mean and wretched conspiracy to hound this brave man out of office. The fact is that the Chairman of the School Board and the Chairman of the Parish Council are one and the same individual, and I am ashamed to say that a minister of religion did not think it beneath the dignity of his office to denounce Dr. Lamont at the open grave of one of his patients in such vigorous terms that no person dared to consult him, and because of the sway of this priestly despotism none went near him, and several died from want of medical attendance. Dr. Lamont beat them on their own ground. He beat the Chairman of the School Board, and he ordered the school to be shut up. We have had the facts of the case put very clearly before us. It is, indeed, a miserable, lamentable story, and the Lord Advocate's answer is to my mind singularly insufficient to meet the facts of the case. The Lord Advocate seems to cast some aspersion on the finding of the jury, but Dr. Lamont was arrested on sixteen charges, one of which was withdrawn, and he was triumphantly acquitted by the jury of the rest, leaving the court without a stain on his character. I consider that instead of being abused, persecuted, and cast into prison, it would be far more to the purpose if he were brought to the Bar of the House and, like an illustrious general recently, had handed over to him a sum of public money to compensate him for his trials, his work, and his difficulties. Many of us feel very strongly that something should be done, not to reinstate Dr. Lamont, but to give him some practical and substantial consolation for his lacerated feelings, and also for the loss of money and the temporary loss of prestige which he incurred in consequence of one of the meanest and most despicable bits of persecution which it has ever been my lot to hear exposed in this House.

Admiral Field.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie): I cannot understand how there can be any other solution of this question than the condemnation of the officials whom the Lord Advocate shelters under his wing. I heard what the hon. and gallant Admiral said about the administration of the law in Scotland, and I am surprised to find that many other Members of this House are not as indignant as he is. It appears to me that the only course for a just, prudent, and careful Government to adopt in a case so monstrous and unjust as this is to punish the guilty officials.

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY**: I do not really know whether the hon. Gentleman was in the House when I spoke.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS: No, I was not.

***MR. GRAHAM MURRAY**: Then I think it is almost a pity that the hon. Gentleman expressed himself so strongly. I did not disguise from the Committee that I thought the conduct of the officials was wrong in ordering the arrest. Instructions ought to have been taken from the Crown Office. However, after all is said and done I do not see anything wrong in this case except what I have put my finger upon; and, as to that, to the best of my ability, I will take proceedings by conveying censure.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS: I was detained on business of a public nature during the reply of the right hon. and learned Gentleman, and I regret I was not in the House, but I gather from what I heard of the Debate that those who were interested in this case were not satisfied with what had been promised. I want, in the first place, compensation so far as it can be given to this gentleman who has been so hardly used, but I want also to prevent such a thing occurring again. Dr. Lamont was dismissed by the local authorities without any appeal to the Local Government Board in Edinburgh. Poor Law officers in Scotland are denied the right of appeal which is possessed by Poor Law officers in England under the Local Government Act of 1894. There is a right of appeal in respect of the duties and emoluments of Poor Law officials, but the effect of the administration of that appeal is that when the authorities in Edinburgh redress the grievances of a Poor Law officer in that respect the local

authorities dismiss him. I hope the Government will not take up an attitude on this question in which I cannot follow them. I hope the Government will not mistake my attitude, but I cannot follow them when they are wrong. A great amount of scandalous injustice has been done, and there should be a strong vindication of any man who has been so unjustly used.

DR. CLARK: A very important point has been overlooked, namely, that a conspiracy took place for the purpose of attempting to ruin a man who tried to do his duty. We are going to determine tonight whether the Procurator Fiscal aided and abetted the conspiracy, or whether he acted ignorantly. What we want to get at is whether the Procurator Fiscal acted ignorantly or wilfully, and so far as the evidence goes, it seems to show that he acted as vindictively as the parish priest. What happened was this. A gentleman was appointed medical officer of health, and he found himself in antagonism with the body who appointed him. The Local Government Board in Scotland sent down an inspector, and the result of the inquiry made by him was that the men who had employed Dr. Lamont acted with meanness and cowardice, and that Dr. Lamont received from the Local Government Board a testimonial couched in more extravagantly eulogistic terms than were ever given to a Civil servant. Here is a case of a local body not doing its duty, and behaving in a contemptible manner, for which they were denounced by the Local Government Board. I agree with the hon. and gallant Admiral that the Scottish criminal law is of a very oppressive character unless it is well administered—it all depends on the administration. The letter of the law gives terrible power to the Procurator Fiscal, but that power is very seldom abused. It has been abused in this case, and abused wilfully, and though the Lord Advocate has not power to dismiss the Procurator Fiscal concerned, we shall be asked to vote that official's salary later, and I hope we will not do it. We have to determine whether this person acted ignorantly, and ought to be let off with a censure, or whether he aided and abetted in a conspiracy to crush Dr. Lamont. What happened? The Roman Catholic clergyman was chairman of the school board, and also chairman of the parochial board. The Procurator Fiscal is unfortunately a

Catholic, and is to a certain extent under the influence of the priest. I agree with the Lord Advocate that the magistrate had no choice when he was applied to but to grant a warrant, though, unfortunately, he was afterwards a witness in the case himself. What we want to arrive at is the motive which actuated him in the course he took. The English Local Government Board and the Scottish Local Government Board had a perfect right to lay down conditions under which they pay persons for public vaccination, and if an officer does not carry out those conditions it might be within the power of the Procurator Fiscal under Scotch Law to have considered that he was endeavouring to obtain money by false pretences; but this was not a case of pauper patients paid for by the local authority; the persons concerned were his own private patients. As a medical officer of health I have done similar things, and on similar principles it might have been said that I had been receiving money on false pretences. I have signed hundreds of death certificates without seeing the persons who were dead. I have signed certificates of successful vaccination, without seeing the children. In one case the child was in Scotland, and in another case the child was in Switzerland. These children could not be brought from Switzerland and from Scotland so that I might see them, but I was perfectly satisfied that the mothers honestly informed me that the children had been vaccinated. That is exactly what Dr. Lamont did when he was fighting this terrible epidemic of typhus fever. So far as Mr. Chisholm is concerned, I do not see that there was a shadow of a shade of evidence to justify his demand for a warrant. I think with the facts before us we ought to have some evidence that, in a matter of this kind, the Procurator Fiscal did not abuse the terrible powers placed in his hands. There was not the shadow of a shade of evidence against Dr. Lamont, and the judge and jury could have done nothing else than find a verdict of not guilty. It was monstrous, after the man was out on bail, and his address was known, to try and get him re-arrested.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY : There were a great many new charges. At the first there were only five charges, but by this time there were about forty.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON : Might I ask whether there was not another war-
Dr. Clark.

rant issued on 12th December, bringing all these things into a focus?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY : There were three or four fresh sets of charges.

DR. CLARK : All that the priest did. The priest went to every child that had been vaccinated. I hold that this was a bogus prosecution. What we want to get at is, did the Procurator Fiscal act ignorantly or wilfully? The whole of the evidence seems to show that the Procurator Fiscal in the course he took acted as vindictively as the parish priest. The question is, cannot some compensation be given to Dr. Lamont; for if anyone deserves compensation he does. This is a case of the Crown prosecuting a gentleman for doing his work too well. Surely the cost to which Dr. Lamont was put ought to be voted by Parliament. I remember a sheriff who was tried, and found guilty, and this House voted his costs. Surely if that were done in the case of a guilty man, it should be done in the case of a man found innocent. There ought to be some further investigation as to whether the Procurator Fiscal was one of the parties to this malicious prosecution, and if he was he should be dismissed. I do not know whether there can be a prosecution against the priest and the other conspirators, but if possible it should be done, and full compensation granted to Dr. Lamont.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) : I never heard of this case until now, but I have listened to the discussion with great interest and attention. If I make any slip in stating the view I take, the House will forgive me, as I have not been able to go very carefully into the details. But as I understand the speeches which have been delivered, there has been great and most natural indignation at the treatment of this medical officer, who, on the authority of the Local Government Board, has not only done his duty, but has done it in an exceptionally able and satisfactory manner under circumstances of exceptional difficulty and trial. Dr. Lamont was attacked at the instance of the local authorities whom he was serving. The Procurator Fiscal is alleged by the hon. Member for Caithness to have taken part in what he has described as a conspiracy.

DR. CLARK : I do not wish to go as far as that. I do not know that he did

take part in the conspiracy. He may have acted ignorantly. Whether he was one of the parties is, I think, a ground for further inquiry.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : The facts presented to the hon. Gentleman at all events suggested to his mind that not only had the medical officer irritated the local authorities whom he was serving, by discharging his duties efficiently, but had also brought down on his head the animosity of the Procurator Fiscal, who may have abused the powers which the law of Scotland puts in his hand in an oppressive way against this distinguished officer. We have got to consider what the result of the vote of the Committee would be, and what it would indicate on the part of the Committee. My right hon. friend the Lord Advocate has been asked what course he would take, and he has told the Committee that he has looked into the case, and as far as his investigation shows the Procurator Fiscal has deserved censure. That censure will be given. The suggestion has been made that the Lord Advocate should not only censure the Procurator Fiscal, but dismiss him. But the Lord Advocate has no legal power whatever to do that. No blame attaches to my right hon. friend for not doing that which the law does not allow him to do. All that the law permits he has promised to do, and that, no doubt, he will do. Then we come to the local authorities, who, if the statements made are to be accepted, are the real authors of this tragedy, the persons on whose shoulders rests the responsibility of the persecution of this medical officer. Now, I understand that under the law of Scotland a medical officer has no redress against the arbitrary action of the local authorities.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead) : The mair's the pity.

HON. MEMBERS : "Shame ! "

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I regret that that should be the case, and although perhaps ninety-nine out of a hundred local authorities in Scotland would use the powers they possess with absolute equity, I think we ought to possess the power to protect medical officers whose duties must occasionally bring them into collision with, and subject them to the arbitrary

action of, those who are their employers and against whom it may be their duty, at the same time, to proceed. But though that is the state of the law at the present time, I should like to say that no vote of this House in Committee of Supply can affect one way or another, directly or indirectly, the merits of the question. Therefore I venture to suggest that, so far as my right hon. friend the Lord Advocate is concerned, it would not be proper for the House to express an opinion on the question by a Vote on his salary. There remains the question whether any action could be taken against the local authorities, who, it appears from this discussion, are the real "villains of the piece." I have no means of ascertaining whether the charges brought against them are true or not, but those hon. Members who have investigated the case appear to think that these charges are true ; that the local authorities have been misled by passion, prejudice, and personal aversion, and that there was no foundation for that passion, prejudice, and personal aversion. One thing at least is certain, and that is that the medical officer has done all that man could do to earn the grateful thanks of the community he served. Again, however, my right hon. friend the Secretary for Scotland has no means of punishing the local authorities or even expressing in any official way his reprobation of their conduct. Of course, if it could be shown that, in the legal sense of the word, there has been any conspiracy against the medical officer, then it would be the duty of the public authority to take up the case and prosecute the offenders. But as to the motives which animated the local authorities in the case, there is nothing before us or before my right hon. friend which would for a moment, however well founded our suspicions may be, permit or justify in any legal or technical sense the taking of legal or criminal proceedings against them. I think that both the local authorities and Dr. Lamont must feel after this Debate that the sense, at all events, of the Committee of the House of Commons is strongly in favour of the medical officer, and that the action taken against him is viewed with distrust, if not with something much stronger than distrust. But I think that the position of hon. Gentlemen who are interested in this Debate would not be strengthened, but weakened, by a vote against my right

hon. friend, who has done all that he could do, or against the Secretary for Scotland, who has, after all, done everything that can be done, and certainly has omitted to do nothing which it was in his power to do. Certainly an adverse vote could not do anything either to protect the medical profession generally or Dr. Lamont in particular from any evil consequences arising from the due, courageous, and disinterested exercise of their duty under circumstances of exceptional difficulty and great personal danger.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present; House counted, and forty Members being found present—

MR. MCLEOD (Sutherlandshire): It seems to me that after the sympathetic attitude taken up by the Lord Advocate and the First Lord of the Treasury, we have reached a point when we might expect from the right hon. Gentleman a statement as to how he proposes to compensate Dr. Lamont for the undoubtedly wrong that has been done to him. All the censure in the world might be showered upon the Procurator Fiscal, but this will do no good to Dr. Lamont. A case like this could hardly have arisen if the Crown Office had done its duty. There is one further point with regard to Dr. Lamont. I know the amount of ground he had to cover in this district, and apart altogether from the epidemic, if Dr. Lamont had had to see every child after vaccination, he would not have been in his house one day in three. Another extraordinary thing is how Dr. Lamont came to be prosecuted at common law instead of under the Vaccination Act. The reason for that was that the charge could be made more grave. I know all the persons concerned in this scandal except Dr. Lamont, and I must say I do not think they would be guilty of conspiracy, but it is a gross case of mal-administration, and it seems to me that if the Scotch Office did its duty this could not have arisen. I hope the Committee will not allow this Vote to go until we have had a definite promise from the Lord Advocate that Dr. Lamont shall be at least compensated to the extent of the considerable cost to which he has been put.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER: I hope this discussion may now finish. We have had

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

a very sympathetic speech from the First Lord of the Treasury, which we can only understand to mean not only that the Procurator Fiscal will be censured, but that, as far as it is possible, compensation will be made to Dr. Lamont for his out-of-pocket expenses. I think that being so that those who support the Amendment have obtained all that they sought to gain. We have vindicated the character of the gentleman with respect to whom the question has arisen and insured compensation for him, and I think now my hon. friend might well withdraw his Amendment.

*MR. WEIR: There is one fact I should like to bring under the notice of the Lord Advocate. The right hon. Gentleman made no observation in regard to the Hon. Sheriff Substitute. That gentleman is the brother of the factor of the landlord of the island. The best way to deal with the Procurator Fiscal would be to reduce his salary, and I hope my hon. friend will not withdraw his motion until we have a positive assurance that Dr. Lamont will be compensated and that the administration of the law in these remote parts of Scotland will be conducted with greater justice than it has been in the past.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I am going to withdraw my motion, because the matter has been discussed in a previous Vote, and we had a very sympathetic and satisfactory speech from the First Lord of the Treasury, who said the Procurator Fiscal should be reprimanded, and I think if any man can feel a reprimand the Procurator Fiscal will feel he has received a severe reprimand by what has taken place to-night. The jury who tried the case recommended that the expenses that Dr. Lamont had been put to should be refunded, and, under all the circumstances, I think it would be most ungenerous for me to refuse to withdraw the motion.

*MR. GRAHAM MURRAY: I have the authority of the Leader of the House to say that he considered himself bound to look into the question of compensation.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

*MR. WEIR (who was inaudible in the Gallery) was understood to ask for some information with regard to a sum of £550 paid to the Consulting Engineer of the Scotch Office, and also another item. The hon. Gentleman said every piece of information asked for in this House is met with the stereotyped reply that it is under consideration.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The hon. Gentleman asks as to the salary of the Consulting Engineer. I can only say that the gentleman is engaged in any engineering work that may be required, and I might further say we do not pay men of this kind so much an hour. We pay for the skilled training. With regard to the item under "office," that represents travelling expenses between the two offices of the Scotch Department—the London office and the Edinburgh office.

*MR. WEIR: I am not complaining about the ability of this engineer. It is because I have a high opinion of that gentleman that I wish to get his views in regard to the Harbour which the Commission appointed by the Conservative Government of 1890 recommended should be constructed at Portnaguran, Island of Lewis. I complain of the Scottish Office denying me that information.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £16,169, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the salaries and expenses of the Fishery Board in Scotland and for grants in aid of piers or quays."

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, North): I should like to call attention to the matter of beam trawling in the Clyde. The question arose in 1889, when the Fishery Board obtained power to make bye-laws to open any narrow waters in Scotland. Under those powers they issued a bye-law in 1889 throwing open the very part of the Clyde which ought to be closed—the part frequented by fish during the spawning season. Under the bye-laws of 1889 small trawlers of eight tons gross were allowed to fish. I have seen the whole of the water covered by these so-called small trawlers. Many representations have been made to the Fishery Board, and last year the bye-law was amended and a regulation issued under which the size of the boats was

reduced to seven tons register. But under the Board of Trade regulations a boat by a certain process, which I will not here explain, can reduce its tonnage, and the skippers of these boats being acquainted with these regulations have so reduced their tonnage and brought them under the bye-law. It is so obviously an attempt to evade the regulation that I feel compelled to call the right hon. Gentleman's attention to it. I hope he will bring pressure to bear on the Fishery Board to still further reduce the size or in some other way to overcome what is a breach of the regulation.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: One justification for bringing forward this controversy between line and trawling fisheries has been the work very recently published by Professor Mackintosh, but everyone must agree that the conclusions arrived at and the principles indicated therein are tentative and provisional. Knowledge is so incomplete and imperfect, and the subject-matter is so difficult, that it will be conceded on all sides that it is far too early to dogmatise in regard to the subject dealt with in that work. With regard to the closing of the Moray Firth, there are two grounds upon which it can be abundantly justified. In the first place there is the social necessity and advisability of endeavouring by regulation to adapt the interests between line and trawl fishing. There is room for both, and there is no necessity for conflict. We are justified on economic, social, and political grounds in assisting line fishermen to earn a livelihood. There is a large population of 80,000 to 90,000 who depend upon this industry, and it is perfectly ridiculous to say that any Department would be justified in taking any line which would seriously affect the ability of so large a portion of the population to earn their living. They are far too valuable a portion of the population, and it is not at all proved that they will not in the future play a very useful and desirable part, not only in providing food for the population, but also in doing their duty as citizens in the various responsibilities which may fall upon them. It is very unfortunate that the pernicious influence of English trawling interests should upset the equilibrium in regard to the two classes which has obtained in Scotland. We are too often sacrificed to the interests of larger populations. I also base my support of the closing of the Moray Firth on the ground of scientific

research. Nothing can be more evident than that if we want to have a greater detailed knowledge of the habits and life of fish it is necessary to take measures for observation and experiments and so forth. The real impulse which the movement to extend the three mile limit has got from what has been done in other countries comes from the fact that if we want further knowledge and opportunity for information we must have enclosed areas for the purpose. I quite realise the difficulties, international and otherwise, in extending the three mile limit; but when we see what has been done abroad it is a great pity the Government have taken the attitude they have. It is very important from many points of view that we should cultivate our own resources. We should also like a little more money to be spent on scientific research. On the question of Fishery Committees and the Fishery Board, our machinery in Scotland for cultivating our own resources is not as perfect as it might be. There has been some kind of confusion with regard to the desirability of imparting a representative character to those bodies. That confusion might very well be cleared up, and one step in that direction would be for the Government to see its way to take steps to enable these district fishery committees to be formed. In various parts of Scotland there are voluntary associations which, with very little alteration, could practically become district fishery committees. It is a great pity the Government has not taken steps to make use of that instrument for stimulating the interest of localities in the fisheries, as well as for cultivating a supply of shellfish, which are useful not only for bait, but also for food. As to the Fishery Board, I greatly doubt whether the effort to further extend its representative character is at all likely to be fraught with success. It seems to me to be a curious anomaly to endeavour to impart a representative character to an administrative Department. In the first place, the Board is a temporary one; its members are appointed for a time; and the number of those members, as compared with the very large and varied fishing interests of Scotland, produces the result that, whereas at one time certain localities and certain interests are represented, during the succeeding term of administration other interests and other localities are

represented. My impression is that we should have a far more vigorous administration if the Fishery Board were made an executive department—a department under a permanent head, a department in the main a permanent branch of the Civil Service, aided by its local inspectors, who would have local knowledge and transmit local information with regard to different parts of the country—a department not depending for its decisions upon what must be a fluctuating majority, composed of the representatives of interests which must vary from time to time. I make no comment upon the admirable work which has been done by the Fishery Board, but I think the time has come when we ought to endow it with further power to enable it to be more active and energetic in its work.

*MR. WEIR: Upon several occasions I have asked for some information from the Lord Advocate as to the amount of work done by the cruisers engaged in the protection of the Scotch fisheries against unlawful trawling. Last year a proposal to construct another cruiser remained in the hands of the Fishery Board for one and a half years, and I had to ask a great many questions before I was informed that tenders had been sent in. The coast needs better sea policing very badly indeed, for the trawlers are playing havoc with the line fishermen. It is a very serious matter, and I do think that the Fishery Board has not shown that energy which I think it ought to have done. When I asked about the holidays of the men on these cruisers, I was told that it was a matter for the commanders. I say that it is also a matter for the Members of this House and for the taxpayers, and we ought to know whether these cruisers are at work all the year or only half the year. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will furnish us with this information, and thus obviate the necessity for dealing with the vote on the Report stage. Then I find that the salaries of the commanders are not given. We ought to know what salaries are given to the commanders of these vessels. I challenge the right hon. Gentlemen to say that these cruisers are not used by members of the Fishery Board for pleasure cruises.

MR. BUCHANAN: I have no wish to revert to the discussion which we had

Captain J. Sinclair.

earlier in the evening, but like the hon. Member for Forfarshire, I heard with great satisfaction the answer of the Lord Advocate that there would be in future no alteration of the attitude which the Government have taken up in reference to the subject of the fisheries. I desire to take up another subject which is connected with this Vote. The Estimate shows a decrease of £3,000, but I want to bring before the attention of the Committee the fact that there is not a real decrease at all. I find that the item of £6,000 for marine superintendence has totally disappeared this year from the Vote. I think this is a matter with regard to which we have good reason to complain. Last year when the Local Taxation (Scotland) Act was brought forward the Lord Advocate told us that £12,000 was to be voted for marine superintendence, and he was asked if that was going to be taken at the expense of the Imperial Exchequer or out of the Fishery Board Vote. The Lord Advocate told us that it would not interfere with the Fishery Board Vote generally; in point of fact, he said that the only item which will come off is the cost of maintenance for one cruiser. That is what he said on the 27th of June last year, and the statement was made twice on behalf of the responsible authorities in this House, and those were the conditions under which we were induced to accept the proposals of the Government, who had promised to vote £12,000 for the purposes of marine superintendence. We find this year that not only has the cost of maintaining the steamer "Vigilant" disappeared altogether, but the whole item for marine superintendence has also disappeared. The amount for building the new cruiser is nearly £3,000, so that altogether nearly £10,000 has been struck out of the Vote this year, which has hitherto been borne by the Imperial Exchequer. During the Debates last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer was present, and we pointed out to him that the Government ought not to relieve the Imperial Treasury out of Scotch money of a responsibility which they have hitherto borne. Until last year the Votes of the House from year to year bore the cost of marine superintendence, and last year out of the money which came in under the system of equivalent grants, and which was ear-marked, the Government gave us an increased amount for marine superintendence, and

we were willing to accept it providing it did not relieve the Imperial Treasury of the existing liabilities, and we were then assured that the existing liabilities had not been taken off the Estimates and put upon this grant. We understood that only the future liabilities would be put upon this Local Taxation Grant, but we now discover that it is not merely the future liabilities but also the existing and past liabilities that are to be put upon this grant. Therefore, I think Scotland has been treated very shabbily in this respect.

*SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: I think my hon. friend the Member for East Aberdeenshire has misunderstood the right hon. Gentleman's reply. I did not understand the Lord Advocate to express himself in the *non possumus* way that has been attributed to him. I have always thought that the Lord Advocate took a very sound view of the interests of the Scottish fishing industry, and I understood him to say that he intended to continue the same policy in keeping the Moray Firth closed, and that the Scottish Office was using all its endeavours to forward that policy. I understood that that was the view which he took. At an early stage of the proceedings it was suggested that I had been hoodwinked by the Scottish Office in regard to this North Sea Conference, but I do not think that is the case. I am perfectly well informed as to the origin and history of the Stockholm Conference, and I have had communications with those scientific gentlemen with whom that conference originated. It is perfectly true that this conference was originally suggested from a scientific point of view, but I am also aware that the British Government have always pressed upon that conference the importance of the practical side of the case. They took advantage of their opportunity, and I think they have certainly used their influence to bring this important question of regulations under the cognisance of the North Sea Powers. I quite admit that, considering the immense fishing interests of this country and the great diplomatic influence which we at present exercise, I think the Government might have taken the initiative rather than leave it to Powers who are far less interested in the matter than we are. I am convinced that a thoroughly good understanding on these questions obtained by negotiation would have given much.

greater satisfaction in my constituency than diplomatic triumphs in the centre of Africa. Reference has been made to the book of Professor Mackintosh, but I do not think it has been noticed that his conversion to his present views has been a very recent one, for only a short time ago he held contrary opinions. The remarkable proposal he made originally was that the North Sea should be regularly protected and divided into great blocks, and that all the fishing should be restricted to certain portions of those blocks. That was a suggestion which recommended itself to the trawling interests, for they agreed to refrain from fishing over a very large area of the sea, because they recognised that it does not pay them to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. We want some understanding that will afford fairplay to all the different interests concerned, and which will prevent the supply of fish being diminished in the future. I desire to add my testimony to the value of the scientific experiments which have been made by the Scotch Fishery Board. I see one of the proposals made is that they should have a properly equipped boat for scientific investigation. Everyone will admit that something of that kind is necessary, for at present a great deal of time is wasted, and experiments cannot be carried out with the success which is necessary to enable us to compete with other foreign countries. I notice that even foreign countries recognise the good work done by the Scotch Fishery Board, which is entitled to be provided with proper assistance and appliances so that their work may be properly carried out.

DR. CLARK : I agree with what my hon. friend has said regarding the disappearance of certain items in the Estimates this year. There is £6,000 taken out which we used to have for marine superintendence, and now that will have to be found from our own money. I think it is very mean of the Treasury to do what they have done. I do not think the Treasury should do anything to reduce those Scotch charges, some of which have run from the time of the Act of Union, for when the Imperial Parliament took these burdens upon its shoulders we took upon ourselves a large share of the National Debt. We are paying all these increased burdens, and yet

the last arrangement made by the Treasury was one under which almost the entire cost of the Fishery Board officers is defrayed out of the brand fees. Not only did they place upon these fees the charge of the Fishery Board officials, but they placed upon them rates and taxes, so as to allow as little as possible to the Fishery Board for the valuable work which they have got to do. Here we have got £6,000 taken off under these conditions, and had it not been for the fact that we have had a good summer the Fishery Board would have had practically nothing to spend during the ensuing year. For years the Treasury took the whole of these fees, until a surplus of over £34,000 accumulated, which the Treasury "collared," and now they won't give us a single penny, and they act in the usual mean fashion. As Scotchmen we get the credit of looking after "saxpences," but we get no chance at all as compared with the Treasury. When a change is being made the Treasury deduct £6,000 from us and pretend they are going to do something, but what they give with one hand they take away with the other. I hope the suggestion made by the hon. Member for North Ayrshire that trawlers should be excluded from the Firth of Clyde as well as from the Moray Firth will be carried out, as it is a matter which very seriously affects fishermen.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY : I am very glad that the matter of Clyde trawling has been brought before the Committee. Undoubtedly various complaints have been made locally as to the existence of trawling on the part of the coast within the limited area. My hon. friend is perfectly right in stating that the Fishery Board passed another bye-law, but unfortunately it seems to be the case that, by doing something in the way of re-decking and by adopting another class of measurement, the trawlers have been able to evade the Fishery Board's bye-law by reducing the boats from eight to seven tons, with the result that the practical object of the bye-law has not been achieved. Under these circumstances the Fishery Board will have to consider whether it will not be necessary to pass another bye-law in order that the obvious purpose of the first bye-law may be carried out, or whether they should not pass a bye-law doing away

Sir William Wedderburn.

with trawling altogether in this part. I am quite sure the board will be ready to give their very serious consideration to this matter. I do not think there is really very much for me to answer in the speech of the hon. Member for Forfarshire, and I can only say to him and to the hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire that I think they have both misunderstood a phrase of mine. I did use the phrase that we should alter our attitude with regard to the Moray Firth fishing, but the last thing I meant to convey by that was that we did not mean to make any further efforts with regard to foreign Powers. What I meant was that we had no intention of giving in to those who asked why we did not agree to open the Moray Firth. My next sentence was that we would use every effort the law put into our hands to prevent that, and what I meant to convey was that we had no intention of going back on our policy. Then the hon. Member for Ross-shire asked me one or two questions, especially about a new cruiser. That is a matter which will have the consideration of the Board. He has also asked during the session a number of questions with regard to altering the old cruisers. I can tell him that one result of his questions was that the alterations cost the Government £1,000 more than they would have cost anyone else, and eventually we had to invite tenders without stating that it was the Government who were offering the contract at all. I am merely explaining to the hon. Member that questions are not always very good

things. I hope now hon. Members will allow this Vote to be taken.

*MR. WEIR: The right hon. and learned Gentleman has omitted from his reply the question of the lease of the Clyde mussel beds. I should like to know why the Fishery Board took them over without investigating the title.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: It is not a question of the title not having been investigated, but the question, as I understand it, is the contention of various persons in the neighbourhood that they have a right to take mussels from these beds. They have been stopped, and litigation has ensued. So far as the title is concerned that is sufficient.

*MR. WEIR: With regard to the holidays given on board the cruisers, it is not a matter of an hour, or a week, or a month, but of very considerable periods every year. The commanders are servants of the Fishery Board, and we are entitled to know whether the cruisers were at work or simply lying in harbour. We ought to know how the taxpayers' money is expended, and, as a protest, I beg to move the reduction of Item A by £100.

Motion made, and Question put—

"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £100."—(Mr. Weir.)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 18; Noes, 80. (Division List, No. 270.)

AYES.

Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Colville, John
Crilly, Daniel
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.

Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Ghee, Richard
M'Leod, John
Moulton, John Fletcher
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh

Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.).
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Wedderburn, Sir William
Wilson, John (Govan)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Weir and Dr. Clark.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bris.)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson

Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Crombie, John William
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward

Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick

Kemp, George
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Crae, George
 Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E.
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monmouthsh.)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute)

Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Purvis, Robert
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Smith, James P. (Lanarks)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt Hn JG (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray

Valentia, Viscount
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph P. (Birn.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrighton, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks., E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.): I cannot allow this Vote to pass without moving a reduction in respect of the sum taken from Scotland under it. I am glad the Chancellor of the Exchequer is here. The position is this, that he has given on the Scottish Vote £10,000 a year less out the Imperial funds than last year. I protest against that. This is not an isolated case, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer knows. For Highland works we used to get £20,000 a year, and now it is reduced to £10,000, at the very time when you are adding to the Vote to Ireland for agriculture and technical education £75,000, and £25,000 under the Congested District Board Bill, which has just been introduced. I protest that while the Government is taking £10,000 from Scotland they are pouring by the two Bills before the House £100,000 into Ireland in addition to what they gave Ireland last year. I move the reduction of the Vote by £200.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £15,969, be granted for the said Service."—(Mr. Caldwell.)

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): The patriotic indignation of the hon. Member is admirable; but it is absolutely without cause. On the contrary he ought to be extremely grateful for the benefits which Scotland has derived from the Imperial Exchequer in the past. The fact is that Scotland has been favoured for some years with considerable sums at the cost of the Imperial Exchequer, for doing work which in England falls upon the local rates, in providing police for the fisheries on the coast, and matters of that kind. That is so obviously unfair, that when it was necessary, last year, to make

an equivalent grant to Scotland out of the Imperial Exchequer, this particular need of Scotland for the protection of the fisheries, which in England is borne at the expense of the ratepayers, seemed a very proper thing to be borne out of the Scottish grant. The charge has been transferred to that grant; and there it will remain as long as I am Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. BUCHANAN: A more unfounded statement I think I never heard from a person in the position of the Chancellor of the Exchequer than that which he has just made. The right hon. Gentleman says that the protection of the fisheries in England is paid for out of local rates. Now the only case in which English rates are used for this duty is the case of the Fishery Committee of the Lancashire County Council. There is no doubt that under the Act of Parliament the Local Fisheries Committees in England can spend out of the rates for superintendence; but in only one case have they exercised the authority, and that is in the case of the Fishery Committee of the Lancashire County Council. As a matter of fact the duties of police marine superintendence along the whole English coast are discharged by the Admiralty. At Penzance just now there is a gunboat permanently stationed to prevent a renewed outbreak of riots which took place there some time ago among the fishermen. We in Scotland have never got the support from the Admiralty that England has got. Last year when this new legislation was introduced, an understanding was arrived at that all future increased expenditure would be borne out of the £15,000 grant, and that the amount hitherto paid out of the Imperial Exchequer would be continued to be given. From that understanding, the Government have departed, and I

shall most cordially support my hon. friend in making his protest against the exceedingly shabby treatment of the Government and the unfair statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

DR. CLARK: This is a very extraordinary line taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Until now the policing of the sea has been the work of the Admiralty. There has always been on this Vote £100 to be paid, in addition to their salaries, to the captains of these naval cruisers, in order that here, in the House of Commons, we should have a voice in their conduct in reference to fishery matters. Four or five years ago I pointed out that the work which these cruisers did was the best possible manner of teach-

ing the men in time of peace, the duties they would have to discharge in time of war on board torpedo-catchers. They have to detect poaching trawlers at night. I protest against the taunts of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is always willing to give to Ireland as much as she requires. The Irish Members know very well how to "work the oracle." I only wish we Scottish Members knew how to do it as well as they. I hope my hon. friend will go to a Division, and I know all the Scottish Members will support him.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 26 ; Noes, 72. (Division List, No. 271.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander	Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)	M'Ghee, Richard
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond	M'Leod, John
Colville, John	Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herb. Jno.	Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Crilly, Daniel	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Crombie, John William	Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.	Wedderburn, Sir William
Dalziel, James Henry	Killbride, Denis	Weir, James Galloway
Dewar, Arthur	Lambert, George	
Doogan, P. C.	Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)	
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)	Macaleese, Daniel	
	M'Crae, George	

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Buchanan.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell	Flannery, Sir Fortescue	Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Baird, John George Alexander	Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)	Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.	Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Banbury, Frederick George	Kemp, George	Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Ox'd. Univ.)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn)	Thorburn, Walter
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bris.)	Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie	Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)	Valentia, Viscount
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Lorne, Marquess of	Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)	Macartney, W. G. E. iron	Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Charrington, Spencer	Macdonald, John Cunn. ing	Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	MacIver, David (Liverpool)	Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
Coghill, Douglas Harry	M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)	Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Middlemore, J. Throgmorton	Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Curzon, Viscount	Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monm'thsh.)	Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Dalkeith, Earl of	Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)	Wrightson, Thomas
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers.	Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)	Wylie, Alexander
Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)	Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.	Platt-Higgins, Frederick	Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)	Purvis, Robert	
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Rentoul, James Alexander	
Fisher, William Hayes	Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.	
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose.	Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson	

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walron and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. MCLEOD: While I entirely agree with what has been said as to the exceedingly shabby treatment which the Fishery Board has received at the hands of the Treasury, I wish to call the attention

of the Committee to the salary of the Inspector of Salmon Fisheries, who receives £600 a year, while the Scientific Superintendent, who has to provide us with the data on which to found a

judgment as between the claims of the line fishermen and the trawlers, receives only £350 a year. It is not so much that there is this disparity between the two salaries that I object, but that the whole time of the Inspector of Salmon Fisheries is devoted, not to the purpose of serving the fishing community at large, or of assisting the Fishery Board in regard to the catch of fish which is open to all comers, but rather to the obtaining of data upon which the private proprietors of fisheries can increase their revenues. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is exceedingly anxious to pare down the Scottish Estimates to the last particle, and the officials of the Scottish Office seem to be incapable of resisting his attempts; but I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that he will not carry popular sympathy with him. No doubt the gentleman who occupies the post of Inspector of Salmon Fisheries is a most admirable person, and discharges his duties in a proper fashion, and earns his salary; but I do think that his salary ought to be charged against the private persons who obtain the benefit of his services, rather than upon the public funds of Scotland. Not satisfied with the ordinary form of the Blue Book to which we are accustomed, this gentleman's Report was, if you please, printed on special plate-paper for the benefit of private salmon fishery proprietors. I should be obliged to the right hon. Gentleman in charge of this Vote if he could suggest a method by which the Salmon Fishery Inspector's salary should be removed from the Estimates, and the salary paid by those who benefit from his services.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The gentleman who is Inspector of the Salmon Fisheries in Scotland is, I suppose, the greatest authority in his profession ever found in Scotland. His special knowledge of everything connected with fishing lore is notorious, and the hon. Baronet the Member for Wigtonshire said of a Report of the Inspector on the life history of the salmon, that it was one of the greatest contributions to our knowledge of that fish he had seen for many years. The hon. Member for Sutherlandshire is really being carried away by his ideas of private property. The salmon fishery in Scotland is one of her greatest industries, and those that belong to the Crown——

Mr. McLeod.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where are they?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: They are all round the coast; and the Crown gets a great deal of money out of them. Does the hon. Member think that there are two kinds of salmon—one which may be taken in sport, and the other which may be taken in nets? Why, the value of the net fishing in Scotland is a great deal more than that of the rod fishing; and the net fishing means the employment of a large industrial population. Scotland would suffer very much by the loss of her salmon fisheries, and it is only by careful scientific investigation that these fisheries can be properly kept up. I maintain that this salary is a most legitimate charge to put upon the Estimates.

MR. MCLEOD: I am exceedingly sorry that the Lord Advocate did not accept with some degree of sympathy the view I have expressed on this particular item on the Estimates. Last year I was perfectly willing to accept his statement that the Crown fisheries were sufficiently large to justify this charge. But I find that these are comparatively immaterial compared with the private fisheries. It must be within the cognisance of the right hon. Gentleman that all round the coast, wherever the salmon fishery proprietors can get a sovereign more by letting their waters for rod fishing than for net fishing, they do so. It seems to me there is not a single item in any other Estimate where there is so slight a justification for the voting of a considerable sum of money for the small Imperial service that is given. I feel so strongly on this matter that I beg to move the reduction of this Vote by the amount of the salary of the Inspector of Salmon Fisheries.

It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next; Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

House adjourned at ten minutes after
Twelve of the clock, till
Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 17th July 1899.

SAT FIRST.

The EARL OF LINDSEY—Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Report of Her Majesty's Attorney-General, received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

CITY AND BRIXTON RAILWAY BILL.

Committee to meet on Thursday next.

BRIGHTON MARINE PALACE AND PIER BILL [L.]

GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS AND WATER) BILL [H.L.]

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

MILLWALL DOCK BILL.

Read 3^a, and passed.

REDDITCH GAS BILL.

BLACKPOOL IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 15) BILL.

Brought from the Commons.

AYR BURGH BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to, with Amendments.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL (No. 167).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 15) BILL (No. 168).

Read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

Committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

VOL. LXXIV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order); an Amendment made; Standing Committee negatived; the Report of the Amendment to be received To-morrow.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 2318. Trade of Shanghai, for the year 1898.

RAILWAY RETURNS.

Return as to the capital, traffic, receipts, and working expenditure, &c., of the railway companies of the United Kingdom, for the year 1898; presented (by Command), and ordered to lie upon the Table.

COURT OF PROBATE DIVISION (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE) (IRELAND).

Annual accounts of receipts and disbursements for the year ended 31st December, 1898; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITION.

POOR LAW ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.]

Petition for amendment of; of the Guardians of the Poor of Plymouth; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

QUESTIONS.

CEYLON WASTE LANDS ORDINANCE.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: My Lords, I rise to call the attention of the House to the necessity of an independent inquiry into the working of the Ceylon Waste Lands Ordinance, and to the injustice caused by the reliance of the Government on the *ex parte* statements made by its officials on the subject, and by the action of those officials. I am glad to see the noble Lord who was formerly Governor of Ceylon (Lord Stanmore) in his place to-night, and I would appeal to him to give to your Lordships his experience with regard to the Waste Lands Ordinance, and upon any other points that may be raised in

the discussion. Since this question was last before the House it has made progress, and I find in *Truth* that Mr. Chamberlain has made some concessions. That journal says :

"After all, the appeals to Mr. Chamberlain against the Ceylon Waste Lands Ordinances have not been entirely fruitless. I understand that he has now decided not to sanction the obnoxious clauses in the amending Ordinance, a measure which, among other things, proposed to make valid all proceedings under the original Ordinance which the High Court at Colombo had pronounced to be invalid. It appears that instead of all past irregularities in regard to notices being condoned by the amending Ordinance, this condonation will be confined to those cases in which the claimants have appeared and agreements have been arrived at. No exception can fairly be taken to this arrangement, provided the claimants have entered into the agreements without being subjected to any sort of pressure from the representatives of the Crown. Another alteration in the amending Ordinance is to the effect that the publication in the *Gazette* notice, instead of being 'conclusive proof' that all the preliminary steps have been taken in a case, is only to be '*prima facie* evidence' of the fact.

"Mr. Chamberlain is to be congratulated on having made those concessions, which, in view of the attitude he has hitherto adopted, were as unexpected as they are welcome. It is necessary to point out, however, that the grave injustice of the Ordinance of 1897 remains unaltered."

The following are the unfair provisions of the Ordinance of 1897, which require either withdrawal or an independent inquiry : (1) The presumption that all land that has not been in continuous cultivation for five years next before the issue of notice is the property of the Crown. This over-rides several decisions of the Supreme Court to the contrary. (2) The presumption that all "chena" land, that is, land that can only be cultivated at intervals of from five to seven years, is the property of the Crown. (3) That the actual occupation of a portion of a land is not to constitute a presumption of private ownership to the remainder of that land. This over-rides other decisions of the Supreme Court to the contrary. (4) Making the owner in possession the plaintiff in the action, and the Crown the defendant, thus reversing the maxim that possession is nine points of the law. (5) Making the revenue officer who sets the claim of the Crown in motion the judge of that claim. His advance in the service depends upon the revenue he can collect, and "land sales" are a very important item in it. No man should be a

judge in his own cause. (6) Preventing the owner in possession from using or selling the land, or exercising any rights of ownership over it, until, after ruinous expense and perhaps years of litigation, it is declared "not to be the property of the Crown." This is a deliberate violation of one of the fundamental principles of justice—i.e., the absolute right of everyone to the free use, enjoyment, and control of his property. (7) Making the wrong-doers, i.e., the executive, the judges of what compensation should be paid for this. (8) Barring an absentee owner from preferring a claim for compensation because of unjust sale of his land by the Crown, or because of an unjust declaration that the land is Crown property, or for the recovery of his property—after the lapse of ten months. Under this Ordinance, therefore, the subject cannot plead prescription against the Crown under thirty years, while the Crown asserts prescription against the subject in one year. (9) Limiting compensation where the land has been unjustly sold by the Crown to what the land realised at the sale. When the Secretary of State for the Colonies took office, he said that they were like estates which required improvement. This maxim would be a very good one, but it pre-supposes that the Secretary of State had some knowledge of the management of an estate, and of the traditions under which they are managed. The Secretary of State appears to have been very imperfectly, not to say inaccurately, informed, and to have refused to listen to any information which did not come from Colonial officials. Various and contradictory statements have been made as to the origin of the Waste Lands Ordinance in Parliament. It has been said that the Governor did not originate it, but that it was due to the Secretary of State. It has been said that it was framed to check a land speculator, and that the Ceylon Government was acting with great liberality. Both these statements are disproved by figures taken from the *Gazette*. I extract the following return of work done under the Waste Lands Ordinance of Ceylon from the Government *Gazette* up to April 20, 1899, namely : Number of notices, 278 ; number of lots in notices, 853 ; extent of land noticed, 158,849 acres ; extent allowed to claimants on payment of upset prices, 350 acres ; extent allowed to claimants with-

out payment, 330 acres; balance of claims rejected by Revenue officers, 158,156 acres. That is to say, that out of 158,849 acres claimed and noticed by the Government, only 330 acres were allowed to the people. This is what the Governor calls being liberal. Compare this with the extent allowed to the Temples in 1858 to 1865, when the "Temple lands" claims were being investigated. Here the Government allowed 162,935 acres out of 388,136 acres—i.e., 42 per cent. then, as against one-fifth of 1 per cent. now. The Temple authorities were wealthy and influential; the claimants now are mostly poor, helpless, and ignorant villagers. When the Governor informs the Colonial Office that 107 claims were "amicably settled" he has included in the 107 the lots declared to be Crown in the absence of claims; that is, where the owners were too frightened to claim. One of the objects of the recent Waste Lands Ordinances has been to raise money for carrying out the Northern Railway. This will prevent the much required reduction of rates on the existing lines, and will be contrary to the principle laid down by Sir William Gregory, that the revenue of existing railways should not be applied to deficits on extensions. In this way the partially cultivated districts will have their progress retarded for the sake of the northern province, where there is now little or no cultivation or population, or prospect of applications for land. It is as though a landowner anywhere in England but in the Fens, intending to make some main drainage, were to ask all his tenants, those on the uplands as well as those in the valley, who alone would profit by the main drain, to pay an increased rent. It has also been stated, on behalf of the Ceylon Government, and by the Governor himself, as quoted by the Under Secretary, that no one in the Colony objected to the proposed legislation. The Hindu organ of Jaffna, April 26, writes:

"Mr. Chamberlain's defence of the Waste Lands Ordinance seems to us to be plausible, and based on incorrect information. His assumption that the unofficial members of the Council did not object to the measure, and that it has given satisfaction to the vast majority of the native population of this Colony, is not founded on fact. We have not the *Hansard* before us, but we perfectly remember that at the time the Ordinance was introduced, it met with much strenuous opposition from the unofficial members. The then Tamil Member, Mr. Coomara Swamy,

went the length of comparing the Government to a highway robber in this respect, which remark was resented by His Excellency the Governor, who presided on the occasion."

The same paper goes on to ask how the state of native opinion was conveyed to the Secretary of State, and quotes a Resolution passed by the Chilaw Association on the 8th of April last:

"That the statement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the House of Commons, on the 20th March last, to the effect that the principle of Land Ordinances of Ceylon is regarded with satisfaction by the vast majority of the natives, has no foundation, and this Association is of opinion that the statement was made by Mr. Chamberlain in ignorance of facts, and under misinformation, the truth being that the said Ordinances are both in principle and in their practical working oppressive and extortionate as regards the natives, amongst whom they have been the cause of the greatest dissatisfaction with the Government from the earliest times."

It has been stated that legislation was necessary to protect the forests of Ceylon, and this was a justification for the Ordinance. As a matter of fact, the Ordinance is being enforced with regard to village "cheena" land, which is by no means forest land. With regard to that portion of my question which refers to the injustice caused by the reliance of the Government on the *ex parte* statements made by its officials on the subject, I would refer to one gentleman in whom the Colonial Office reposes great confidence. There is no fault to be found with him except that he is a Revenue Officer, and that he writes bad English. I have seen a letter of his which contains an admission. He commences by saying:

"In the times when 'cheenaing' was allowed
—"

"Cheenaing," by the way, is neither English nor Singalese grammar; what he means is the time when people were allowed to cultivate "cheena" lands, and he says that at that time they were not interfered with. This gentleman uses the word *bond fide* six or eight times in the course of his letter, always with a different meaning. If I were to say I wish we had a *bond fide* Secretary of State for the Colonies, I should only mean one who devoted his whole time to Colonial business, and not half of it to socialist schemes, but it might be taken otherwise. Mr. Correa made a speech to the Chilaw Association lasting an hour and a half, and the other members all spoke against him. With regard to the

Governor himself, who I said was not to be relied upon as a perfectly safe witness, the noble Earl the Under-Secretary, on March 24th, expressed his regret that I should have thought fit to imply censure on a Governor who had done so much to earn the gratitude of his Sovereign and his country. I am perfectly ready to accept the noble Lord's censure with all humility if he can answer one question which I shall put to him. Mr. Gladstone removed Colonel West Ridgway from the position of Chief Secretary in Dublin on the ground that he was too harsh. The noble Earl is in this dilemma ; he must either say that Mr. Gladstone and his Government removed Colonel West Ridgway without sufficient justification, in which case he would challenge the late Government, or he must admit that he was justly removed. In that case, I want to know why the Secretary of State appointed a harsh Governor to Ceylon ? I do not wish to stand between Lord Stanmore and your Lordships at any further length, and I would appeal to Lord Stanmore to say what he intended to have said on a previous occasion when he was prevented from being present through illness. Your Lordships will hear from him a calm and judicial speech. I conclude with a formal motion for Papers in case I wish to reply.

***LORD STANMORE :** My Lords, so far as I could gather from the speech of the noble Lord who has just spoken, of which, I confess, I heard but very little, he has appealed to me for some confirmation of the statements he has made. I am very reluctant, my Lords, to enter on this matter at all. There are obvious reasons why I should shrink from discussing or appearing to criticise the action of the Government of Ceylon ; and before I say a word more I must be allowed to express my entire dissent from what the noble Lord has said, so far as I could hear him on this occasion, and from what I know him to have said on other occasions in this House with regard to the present Governor of Ceylon. The present Governor is, I am sure, animated by the highest motives in bringing forward the Bill which is the subject of discussion. Benevolence of feeling towards the native races is not the monopoly of my noble friend ; it is, I am sure, shared by Sir West Ridgway. I beg to repudiate any compliment which the noble Lord may pay

Lord Stanley of Alderley.

to me at the expense of my successor, and I beg to dissociate myself with any attempt to cast reflection on the action of Sir West Ridgway. Having said that, my Lords, I am bound to confess that the Ordinance in question does not appear to me to be altogether free from objection. There can be no question as to the motives with which this Ordinance was brought in, or as to the existence of an evil which, I believe, it will cure. But we all know the old fable of the bear who killed a fly on his master's head and broke his skull in doing it, and it appears to me that this Ordinance is a benefit of much the same nature. While I think it will effect the object for which it was brought in, it will do injury to interests which it was never meant to injure. I am not going to trouble the House with wearisome details. The broad principle of this Ordinance is that all waste lands—and in that term is included a great deal of what would not ordinarily be regarded as waste lands—belong to the Crown, and the burden of proof that they do not is thrown upon the owner or *quasi-owner*. That, in itself, is, of course, a position contrary to that usually assumed with regard to disputes as to the possession of land. It has been said in various quarters that this Ordinance only repeats and confirms the provisions of an Ordinance passed in the year 1840, which contained the same presumption—that the Crown owned all land that could not be proved to be not the Crown's. The mistake into which I think the Colonial Office and my noble friend the Under Secretary of State have fallen is a very natural one indeed, but it is, nevertheless, a mistake. They have compared the language of the two Ordinances. They see the same words in them, apparently giving the same presumption to the Crown, and they say that as the words are the same they must have the same meaning, and that this Ordinance, therefore, only re-enacts what has been enacted before. It has been said in this House that it was simply a question of procedure—that a new tribunal was created, but the law remained the same. The mistake made arises from the fact that my noble friend and others who have looked into the matter have not observed what is indeed not obvious on the face of it—namely, that the law of 1840 must be read in the light of the judicial interpretations which have been given to

it by the Supreme Court of Ceylon from time to time during the last sixty years. Now, the Supreme Court of Ceylon, adopting a course which has often been taken when Ordinances or laws are of an unusually harsh character, have drawn the teeth and clipped the claws of the Ordinance of 1840. They have decided that its terms only applied to land which had never been occupied or used for purposes of cultivation within the reasonable limits of time of which ordinary evidence could be obtained. That modification of the old Ordinance is swept away by the new Ordinance. Again, the Supreme Court laid it down that the active occupancy of part of any known or defined plot of land carried presumption of the occupancy or possession of the whole. The new Ordinance says expressly that it shall not do so. In addition to that, the Ordinance of 1840 is very materially strengthened and reinforced by other provisions of the Ordinance of 1897. That this is the case will be visible from the very frank admission of one of the strongest advocates of the Ordinance. I refer to Mr. R. W. Levers (Government Agent, Northern Province) who, in the Memorandum which he drew up advocating the new Ordinance, said that it was not a re-enactment of an old law, but something new and much stronger. He said :

"It must also be admitted that the Ordinance No. 12 of 1840, intituled 'To prevent encroachments upon Crown Lands,' has not succeeded in fulfilling the provision stated in the preamble, which is as follows : - 'That divers persons without any probable claim or pretence of title have taken possession of lands in this Colony belonging to Her Majesty, and it is necessary that provision be made for the prevention of such encroachments.' Owing to its unfortunate wording the Ordinance has been nullified by the construction placed on it by the Courts. It has been vitiated by the words 'without probable claim or pretence of title,' for the Supreme Court has so whittled down the effect of the presumptions in favour of the Crown that the position of the Crown and claimant are now exactly the reverse of what was contemplated in 1840."

This appears on page 47 of the Correspondence Relating to Recent Land Legislation in Ceylon. The words "probable claim or pretence of title" do not appear in the new Ordinance, and their omission at once constitutes a very real and important difference in the two laws and greatly enlarges the number of those to whom its provisions apply. There is also a very distinct statement on another page that the effect of this new Ordinance is not merely to re-enact what was the law

before—what the Supreme Court has laid down to be the meaning of the Ordinance of 1840—but to enact that which the Government of Ceylon thinks was intended to be enacted by the Ordinance of 1840, but which the Supreme Court says, and has for years and years said, that Ordinance does not enact. Both I and my distinguished predecessor, Sir William Gregory, disliked the Ordinance of 1840, and the reason why we did not seek to modify it was that we thought the judicial decisions of the Courts had sufficiently toned it down to prevent it doing any harm. I am afraid that any speech on such a subject as this must weary the House, however short it may be. I will, therefore, not go into all the details which might be urged as objections to the Bill, but there are two main points which I should like to mention, and to which I will confine myself. I fear the Bill may injure two classes—the small village proprietors and the owners of very large estates. I will very shortly say why. We are told that there is no such thing as communal property in Ceylon. Although in a technical legal sense that is true, and small owners have no communal possession in waste lands, yet from time immemorial they have exercised certain rights without which small cultivators in villages could not carry on their industry. Everybody is supposed to have an individual estate and interest, but you find that many inhabitants of villages have purely nominal individual holdings; sometimes something like the seventy-second undivided share of the fourth part of a quarter of an acre. What is that other than an elaborate and clumsy way of saying the plot of land is communal property? Sometimes the division takes another form, such as an individual right to cultivate a field for a particular time. I was only this morning looking through an old journal of mine, in which I found that in one village in the Vavonia district, in 1887, there were at least sixteen persons who had in regard to one plot of land the right to cultivate it once in ninety-six years. That, again, is only another way of saying it is communal land. Practically, these village communities have exercised in the forests in the immediate neighbourhood of the villages certain rights which I need not particularly enumerate, such as the right to pasture, right to cut fuel and sticks for fences, the right to cut timber for houses, to make use of water springs, &c.; but if this Ordinance is strictly enforced all these people will be,

as indeed to a great extent they have been for some time past, exercising such rights entirely at the pleasure and goodwill of the Crown. I shall be told that it is not the intention of the local Government to do injustice. I fully believe it, but I cannot think it is a wise act on the part of the Colonial Legislature to confer powers capable of grave abuse, simply because those to whom their exercise would at the present moment be entrusted are not likely to abuse them. Generally speaking, and certainly under the present officials, there will be a disposition to do all that is fair and just, but you are giving a power to do much that is unjust, and the temptation to use that power is sometimes very great. You place this great power in the hands, practically, of the Government Agents, for it is impossible for the Governor to look after it himself. There is the temptation to sell land to make up the revenue, there is the temptation to yield to the pressure of those seeking for land, and there is sometimes a less worthy temptation. They may have a quarrel with the village, and not scruple in disregarding village rights. With regard to the large landowners, I think they have a great chance of suffering, but in quite a different way. All large landowners have, of course, a large amount of land which they do not use. They generally hold them on old Kandyan grants, the limits of which are extremely indefinite, and may give rise to many lawsuits. Some of these have been settled with the Crown and some have not, but under this Ordinance it will be quite possible, if their lands come within the category of forests and waste, unoccupied or uncultivated lands, that they may have a large portion absolutely confiscated, and be practically punished for having kept any land in wood—all wood under this Ordinance being personally Crown property : and as properties are often skirted by a fringe of waste land undefined in limit, it is quite possible that such may come within the category of waste or uncultivated land. I know that was not the intention of Sir West Ridgway, and I will venture to read one very short extract from a despatch of his with regard to these cases of large landed proprietors. He says :

"The *bond fide* large native proprietor has nothing to fear from the Ordinance . . . This Ordinance will give a ready means of settling such dispute, and particularly with

the object of meeting such a case, the fourth section of the Ordinance provides for an agreement being entered into in respect of any claim, and should a Government Agent be inclined to take an illiberal view of the claim, the large landed proprietor is protected even against himself, because no agreement can be entered into without the consent of the Governor in any case in which the land is over ten acres in extent. Should no agreement be possible the decision as to the right of the landed proprietor to the land in claim is left to the ordinary courts of justice."

I have nothing to complain of in that statement, which is an excellent one. Nothing can be better when you are dealing with cases of boundaries than to settle the dispute by a regular lawsuit in the ordinary courts. Sir West Ridgway goes on to mention a settlement in which I had been interested in the Province of Sabaragamuwa. He states that the settlement made by me covered only a portion of the land claimed, and that the Government Agent has been asked to settle the remaining portion of the land by the claimants under the Ordinance No. 1, of 1897. No better proof could be given, he says, that the large landed proprietor does not anticipate that he has anything to fear from the Ordinance. But I have in my hand a letter from Maduanwala Ratnemahatmeya, in which he gives an account of what has happened. A proposal was made to him which was virtually this, that he should give up a large portion of his claimed land to the Government, and that on his doing so the Government would release him from any claim upon the rest. Not unnaturally, perhaps, Mr. Maduanwala objected to that proposal, and proposed another scheme, by which the Government would acquire certain rights of cutting timber and making roads, and so forth, while he held the land. This he proposed as an alternative. Well, was it made the foundation of any further proposal to him whereby they might come to an agreement? Was that referred to the ordinary courts of law? No. Two days afterwards Mr. Maduanwala received the following answer from the Government agent :

"Ratnapura Kachereri,
"27 March, 1899.

"MADUANWALA CLAIM."

"SIR.—With reference to your letter No. 60, of the 7th inst., and subsequent conversation, I have the honour to inform you that on your withdrawing all claim to the land lying to the east of the Timbolketiya and Embilepitiya road, a certificate of quiet possession will be issued to you for the remainder of your claim. In the event of your refusal, proceedings will be taken under the Waste Lands Ordinance

No. 1 of 1897. I request your reply within 14 days of receipt of this letter. You are to understand that all previous proposals for a settlement on other terms are at an end.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"G. M. FOWLER, Govt. Agent.

I contend, therefore, that what was not intended by Sir W. Ridgway may be done and is done under the Waste Lands Ordinance. He says the Ordinance does not apply and that disputes of this nature will be settled by the ordinary courts of law. The Government Agent says if the native landholder will not accept the terms offered he shall be dealt with under the new Ordinance, which will probably deprive him of great tracts of forest of which for certainly two hundred years his family have been the reputed possessors. You may gain a few hundred acres of forest; you will gain with it the undying enmity of a still powerful family. One other matter I ventured to point out to the Colonial Office, that there is no obstacle under the Ordinance to the issuing of notices for very large plots of land where it is impossible for the people on them to know all about them, and gave the sketch of such a notice. The Governor thought this impossible, and said that if any officer were foolish enough to propose the insertion of such a notice in the *Gazette*, he would not have the opportunity of repeating his action. Since then, however, a notice, substantially the same as the imaginary notice I prepared, has been issued, taking in 150 square miles of land, and under the Forest Ordinance, which works along with this Ordinance, a notice has been issued in respect of a tract of land 150 miles in length and 30 miles in width. My point is this. I am quite satisfied of the intention of the Colonial Office, and I am quite satisfied of the intention of the Governor, but good intentions do not always insure good legislation. All history tells us that, and much of the most mischievous legislation, and some of the most absurd laws of former days, were framed with the most benevolent intentions and with a sincere desire to benefit the people. I, therefore, think it is no proof that the law is a good one to say that it is a well-intended one. I think this law may be oppressively used, and I therefore think it right to call attention to these facts. I ought to have added, with regard to the first of the large tracts of land to which I have referred, that when, nine years ago, I passed through it, there were several villages there. I am told

that those villages have now disappeared. That is very likely. Owing to the great want of irrigation the people have gone elsewhere. But is it to be assumed that because they have done so they have lost their rights to the land? They have removed because they could not live there, but their rights, whatever they are worth, surely still exist. If the Government of Ceylon and the Colonial Office say the present Ordinance is now the law and must continue to be so notwithstanding dangers which may be seen in its provisions, then I would say, let it be so. This law, taken in itself, will effect undoubtedly one great good. It will suppress what is an unmitigated evil—the sale of little petty plots of land by individual owners in villages to the detriment of the whole village and the general public. The Ordinance is a very strong and somewhat harsh method of ascertaining the rights of the Crown. If it is continued as such I would ask Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Ceylon if they will do one thing. Will they, by legislative provisions, secure the rights of the villagers in the same way as the rights of the Crown have been now secured; that is to say, instead of leaving it to the mere caprice, it may be—goodwill and pleasure at the best, it must be—of the Government Agents to say whether they will or will not give certain privileges to villagers in the forest, will they enact, as the Crown has now the power severely to enforce its own rights, that within a certain radius from a village the people of that village shall enjoy those privileges which are mentioned in the Forest Ordinance? If they will do that, then, although the Ordinance might not be without objection, anything that is dangerous in it would, so far as the villagers are concerned, be neutralised. And if they would also make provision whereby large property disputes with regard to boundaries should be treated as it was intended by Sir West Ridgway they should be treated, by being dealt with by the superior Courts of Justice, not by proceedings under this Ordinance; then I think there would be little reason to complain, and I for one would be perfectly satisfied with the course taken.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of SELBORNE): The noble Lord who has just addressed the House has as great right to speak on this subject as

any living man, and during his career as Governor of Ceylon he was distinguished, if he will allow me to say so, for a sympathy with the natives that was wisely directed. Therefore I am glad, in the first place, to think that the division of opinion between himself, the Colonial Office, and the present Governor of Ceylon, is confined really to a single point. The noble Lord repudiated, as your Lordships would have expected, the attacks that have been made in this House and in the other House on the motives and actions of the present Governor. I join most heartily with my noble friend in that repudiation. The noble Lord went on to admit that there was no question as to the motives under which the Waste Lands Ordinance was passed, and he admitted, further, that there were great evils which had to be cured, and which the Ordinance in question would cure. That, at any rate, is a large ground of concurrence between Lord Stanmore, the present Government, and the Colonial Office. My noble friend went on to say that this Waste Land Ordinance would directly injure interests which it was never intended to injure, and which, perhaps, were not taken quite sufficiently into consideration when its provisions were framed. He criticised the argument that has been used by the Governor of Ceylon, and, I think, in both Houses of Parliament, that the principle involved in the Act under discussion is the same as that which was involved in the Act of 1840. My noble friend explained to the House the difference which really exists between the two Acts, and which constitutes this statement a fallacy. The contention of the Governor of Ceylon has been that in both Acts there has been the same presumption of Crown ownership, and that the same words expressed that presumption. But, says my noble friend, the law of 1840 has been so altered by judge-made law, that it no longer carries out what was supposed to have been its presumption, and he named two points specially. The first was that, according to the judgment of the Courts in the case of the Ordinance of 1840, the presumption in favour of the Crown was only applicable to land which had not been cultivated within a reasonable time. I do not think my noble friend named the exact number of years that the Courts had laid down as the minimum

requisite to establish a private claim, and to upset the claim of the Crown. I will leave it at that—that no hard-and-fast rule has been laid down by the Court of Ceylon in respect of the Act of 1840, but that they have admitted, although giving every kind of latitude and advantage to the private claimant, that a period must intervene beyond which ancient rights are not entitled to count against the Crown. The second point which the noble Lord brought forward was that of evidence of the occupancy of part of a district—part, we will say, of a so-called forest—has been held, according to the interpretation by the Courts of the Ordinance of 1840, to be evidence of the occupation of the whole, and that no corresponding provision has been introduced into the current Ordinance. I should like to point out, as regards the first point, that the whole difference between my noble friend and the Colonial Office is a question of degree. If once you admit that after an intervening period the private claim is barred, and the Crown can resort to what we will call its pristine rights, the question in dispute is only one of degree as to how many years prescription ought to be allowed. I quite agree that in dealing with matters affecting closely the interests of the natives, the greatest care should be taken to strain the law on their side rather than against them; but in the necessary administration, I am prepared to rely on the exercise of their discretion by the Government officials of Ceylon under the direction of the Governor. As to the second point—the presumption that occupation of a small part of the land should be evidence of the occupation of the whole—I have no doubt an equally strong case could be made out for the contrary proposition—namely, that it should not be evidence against the Crown (by the Crown I mean, of course, the whole of the public of Ceylon) that the whole of a forest belongs to a certain individual, or to a certain village, because that individual or that village can prove that they have in remote years cultivated a comparatively small plot within that forest or district.

LORD STANMORE: I did not say anything of the sort. What I referred to was a defined and known plot of land. In that case the Supreme Court has said that the possession of a part shall be pos-

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session of the whole. The new Ordinance says it shall not.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: It all depends on the size of the defined area. Admitting that it is a known area, if it cannot be proved that a given individual or his forefathers have, in any time in which there is record, exercised any rights over three-quarters of such known area, the State should have the right to say whether the ownership vested in the State or in the individual, and the Governor seems to me to be justified in not allowing the presumption to be in favour of the individual. My noble friend made two special criticisms. He pointed out that the Act might operate with special harshness against small village proprietors who enjoyed practically, though not technically, communal rights; but he admitted that, after all, the whole thing was a question of administration. It is really, therefore, a question whether the Government and the Colonial Office between them can exercise proper control over the officials of the Government of Ceylon. All I can say on behalf of the Governor and the Colonial Office is that we will do our best; that we recognise absolutely the necessity for acting with the greatest sympathy towards the native proprietors and village communities, and any criticism which will enable us to carry out more carefully that superintendence of detail which is wholly necessary we shall welcome, from whatever quarter it comes. The second case my noble friend referred to was the case of the very large landowners, whom he admitted might include within their properties areas over which their claims were rather vague, and as to which they might not unnaturally resent too close definition. But, my Lords, the Crown—*i.e.*, the public of Ceylon—have claims as well as the great landowners. The latter, no doubt, are entitled not only to the most rigorous justice, but to sympathetic treatment. I cannot think, however, that their case requires as much anxiety on the part of the Colonial Office as that of the small proprietors in the villages; for, after all, the big landowner is presumably able to take care of himself and his interests. Take the case which my noble friend has brought before your Lordships. I shall not be so rash as to attempt to pronounce the

name of the gentleman to which he referred, and which the noble Lord so glibly rolled out, but so far as I understand the case he is a native gentleman who has very large property, in regard to which his rights have been for a long period vague and undefined. My noble friend was himself instrumental in settling a portion of the claims, but a certain portion remains unadjusted. The Governor of Ceylon proposes now to ascertain the respective rights of this native landowner and of the Crown in respect to the remainder of the property. The Government Agent offered him a compromise, which the native gentleman refused, and offered another compromise. The Government Agent refused the compromise offered by the native gentleman, and indicated that if the offer of the Government was rejected the Waste Lands Ordinance would be put in force. Where is the objection to that course being adopted? The Waste Lands Ordinance cannot be put into force without going to the Courts of Justice, and this large native landowner would be able to protect himself there and appeal if necessary. In the particular case to which the noble Lord has referred, I cannot see where the hardship is. It is not a case of a poor man who could not defend himself, but of a man who, from the size of his property, is well able to look after his own interests. As to the large block of land scheduled under the Order, to which the noble Lord alluded, the present Governor of Ceylon personally informed me that he had ridden all through this block of country, and had been quite unable to find any traces of human habitation, and had completely assured himself that in scheduling this block of land the Government of Ceylon were not interfering with the existing rights of any native community or individual, and, as far as they have been able to ascertain, there has been no reason to depart from that view. Before I leave the question of the administration of this Act, I should like, with your Lordships' permission, to read an extract from the last page of the Blue Book which has just been published. The Chief Justice of Ceylon has been frequently quoted, and has been used as a weapon with which to belabour the Government and the Colonial Office, because he used the words, "this extraordinary Act." I will read to your Lordships what the Chief Justice really

said. He wrote to the Secretary of State for the Colonies as follows :

"I understand that the language used by me in a recent judgment questioning certain proceedings under the Waste Lands Ordinance has been interpreted to mean that I disapprove of the principle of the Ordinance. In describing the Ordinance as one of an 'extraordinary' nature I referred to the fact that it confers exceptional powers on the local government. In my opinion, it is not the province of a judge to express either approval or disapproval of the Acts of the Legislature, but I may perhaps be permitted to state that I consider that the local circumstances render exceptional legislation desirable, not only in the interests of the general community to prevent the wanton destruction of valuable property, but also in the interests of the villagers themselves, for nothing is a more prolific source of crime in Ceylon than disputes respecting the ownership of land. At the same time, I have always entertained the opinion that where an Ordinance conferring exceptional powers prescribes the conditions under which the powers may be exercised, these conditions must be strictly observed. I may add that, so far as I am aware, the working of the Ordinance has not been attended by any real injustice or hardship, and that if any such were to occur the Supreme Court may be trusted to find a remedy."

If there is one thing which my noble friend dilated upon more than another, it was the wisdom of the Supreme Court of Ceylon, which had prevented any hardship being committed under the Act of 1840. I would ask him in the same way to rely upon the Supreme Court of Ceylon to prevent, in its interpretation of the present Ordinance, any abuse taking place. If it has protected the native public from a harsh interpretation under one Ordinance, it may, I think, be trusted to do so under another. Finally, my noble friend asked me this question : Will Her Majesty's Government, by legislation, secure the rights of private villagers in the same way as they have secured the rights of the Crown by this ordinance ? I am not, of course, prepared on the spur of the moment to answer a question which involves a complete knowledge of the technicalities of the Land Laws of Ceylon, but I can say that any suggestion emanating from my noble friend (Lord Stanmore) or other authority so entitled to respect will receive the most careful and anxious consideration of the Secretary of State. As regards the remarks of the noble Lord who introduced this motion (Lord Stanley of Alderley), I entirely deny the statement that injustice has been caused by the

action of the officials of the Government, and Her Majesty's Government entirely decline to grant an inquiry into the working of the Ordinance.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS : My Lords, I should like to say that the opinion of the Chief Justice of Ceylon, which has been quoted by my noble friend, took me back twenty-nine years. I could have fancied it was Mr. Gladstone moving the Irish Land Bill of 1870. Exactly the same words about discontent, bad feeling, and exceptional legislation were used then. As land proprietors who have not cultivated their land are liable in Ceylon to have it taken from them by the Crown, I hope those landowners in England, Ireland, and Scotland who have not cultivated their land will be careful that these laws are not introduced into this country. Where they will stop, only wiser men than I can say.

WILD BIRDS ACT (IRELAND).

THE EARL OF MAYO : My Lords, I beg to ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken to enforce the Wild Birds Act (Ireland). In 1880, or thereabouts, the police used to post up printed notices of the birds protected by the Act, but in consequence of a footnote in Sir Andrew Reid's Irish Constables' Guide, which stated that the Constabulary were not to enforce the Act, the Constabulary ceased to enforce it. The Inspector-General has now directed that the Act should be enforced, but it is not strongly enforced. I am told that for the first offence the offender is cautioned, and a second offence is reported to the district inspector for consideration as to whether the prosecution should be instituted. I do not consider this is properly enforcing the Act. A friend of mine informs me that on visiting a police barracks a day or two ago to see the form of notice, he found it posted on the notice board with its face to the wall. I do not think that is an enforcement of the Act. In the wilder parts of Ireland, such as the west coast and some portions of Donegal, the birds are entirely unprotected, and I therefore ask Her Majesty's Government to see that the Act is more stringently enforced.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH : My Lords, the noble Earl is no doubt aware that the police are not obliged to enforce these Acts,

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and the reason why no action was taken at the time mentioned by the noble Earl was that, as the country was disturbed, and the work of the police very severe, it was not considered advisable to add to their duties. That objection no longer exists, and on the 9th May last a circular was issued by the Inspector-General, with the approval of the Irish Government, to the Royal Irish Constabulary directing them to enforce the Wild Birds Protection Acts of 1880 and 1894, and placards were accordingly posted at all the Royal Irish Constabulary barracks in Ireland. The Constabulary have been directed to first warn any person offending against the law before a prosecution is instituted. When the public are thus made aware of the law, should it be found that in any district its provisions are disregarded, the offenders will be prosecuted without warning. The requirement that a constable shall report an offence to his superior, and obtain instructions before instituting a prosecution, is not intended in any way to weaken the action of the police, but is in accordance with the general practice governing prosecutions by the force. If it is reported to the Inspector-General that in any district the law is flagrantly violated, he will insist upon its rigid enforcement without previous warning to offenders. The case mentioned by the noble Lord, in which one of the notices was placarded with its face to the wall, is, I hope, an isolated one, and I am certain that if the noble Earl will direct the attention of the Inspector-General to any case of the kind it will be remedied.

VOLUNTEER RIFLE RANGES.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH: My Lords, I beg to ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in view of the number of Volunteer rifle ranges closed as unsafe during the gradual issue of the Lee-Metford rifle, some pecuniary assistance should not be given to enable those corps whose ranges have been compulsorily closed to obtain others. I do not think I need apologise for having brought this question forward. It is a very serious one, for the recent Return issued shows that 325 ranges belonging to the Volunteers have been closed. The corps to which I have belonged for upwards of thirty years had a very convenient range in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, on which a good deal of

money had been spent. It was used for company prize meetings, battalion prize meetings, and inter-company prize meetings; but unfortunately an accident happened, and as the result of the inquiry which followed the range was declared unsafe, and closed. All the money that had been spent upon it has been thrown away, and with great difficulty the corps has been able to find another range, upon which has been incurred a fresh outlay of £1,000. It seems hard that a battalion should be once again called upon to spend so large a sum. The new range is not so convenient as the old one, and the companies have considerable difficulty and incur great expense in getting to it. I had intended pointing to the result which would inevitably follow upon any interference with the opportunities of practising with the rifle, but I see that on Saturday last a sergeant of this corps broke the record by making the highest possible score at 200, 500, and 600 yards. But although there may be brilliant exceptions, the result must be very detrimental to the efficiency of the Volunteers and the management of the weapon put into their hands, and I think it is a case in which the officers of Volunteer corps can very properly claim the assistance of the Government. I am perfectly aware that applications could be made under certain conditions for a loan repayable over a term of year, but this also is a charge upon the battalion which it can ill afford to bear. I think it will be generally admitted that Volunteer officers as a body are not wealthy men, and it is creditable to them that they spend so much time and money in order to make themselves and the corps with which they serve efficient. The Volunteers as a force have had a checkered career. When the movement was first initiated they were feted, flattered, and made a good deal of, but when the novelty had worn off they underwent a period when no ridicule was too great to hurl at them. They have been likened to that proverbial old maid who is always ready but never wanted, but I believe they have shown that they are ready and capable of doing all that is expected of them. They have survived those periods of ridicule, and I think the Volunteers themselves would be the first to recognise the fact that the conditions under which they serve now are in many

respects better than they were in former years. No one will deny that in efficiency, discipline, and soldierly qualities the Volunteer Force has gone far ahead of the most sanguine expectations of its originators. The noble Marquess, the Secretary of State for War, has probably considered what remedy should be proposed, but to my mind the only remedy consistent with justice is that, in the special circumstances of the case, the Government should make a special grant. I am aware that a Minister of War is not always able to cajole out of the unwilling pocket of the Chancellor of the Exchequer all he thinks he is entitled to, but if the noble Marquess can tell us that the authorities will in some way show their practical sympathy in this direction, I am sure it will tend to the encouragement of the Volunteer Force.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Before my noble friend answers the question which has been put to him by the noble Earl, I should like to say that the Volunteer Force is greatly indebted to him for having brought this matter forward. I do not propose to touch upon the general question of Volunteering, further than to say that Volunteers must have the means of shooting. It is in consequence of the increased range of the rifle, in the main, that these ranges have been shut up. My early educational life was spent in Switzerland, and I saw a great deal of rifle shooting there. In Switzerland ranges are placed close to towns, without, apparently, any dangerous result, and I suggest that the Swiss system of laying out ranges might with advantage be applied in this country. The Government have plenty of waste land at Aldershot where the Swiss method, by which trenches are dug and surrounded by baulks of timber to prevent the bullets going beyond a certain range, might be tried on a small scale.

***THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE):** My Lords, the House must have listened with pleasure and interest to the excellent statement made by the noble Earl who brought this subject forward, and I certainly do not differ from him in the general conclusion to which he has arrived. There is no doubt that the closing of so large a number of ranges has placed the Volunteer Force at a very great dis-

advantage, and it is our duty to give the matter our most serious consideration. I do not think it is quite fair to regard the increased range of the .303 rifle as solely responsible for the present state of things. I am told that most of the ranges which were really safe for the Martini-Henry rifle are safe for the .303 rifle. Two new circumstances have contributed to the present result. One is the rapid spread of the population in many parts of the country, and the manner in which areas which not long ago were comparatively waste-places have been built over. In the second place, there is the greater strictness of inspection which now prevails. There is no doubt that in old days the inspection of the small local ranges was of an extremely easy character; a thorough overhauling has now taken place, with the result that, as my noble friend has said, no less than 323 Volunteer ranges have lately been condemned as unsafe with the new rifle. I wish to guard myself, at the outset, against admitting that Her Majesty's Government, or, indeed, I would almost say any Government, could undertake the enormous liability of providing every Volunteer corps throughout the country with a suitable range. On the other hand, we certainly recognise the duty of doing everything within reasonable limits to afford the Volunteer Forces opportunities of making themselves thoroughly efficient in musketry, and something has been done, and is being done at the present time, in that direction. Under the Military Lands Act of 1892, a Volunteer corps is enabled to raise money for the purpose of purchasing land for ranges on the security of the land itself, and the capitulation grant of the corps. We amended that Act two years ago, and Volunteer-corps are now able to borrow, not only for the purpose of acquiring land, but also for the purpose of constructing the necessary works and buildings. That change in the law seems to have had a very good result, for while in the year before the amendment of the Act only four corps took advantage of the law and borrowed the sum of £8,400, last year no fewer than twenty-one corps came forward, and the total sum advanced was thus raised to no less than £129,000. Again, under the Military Works Loan Act of 1897, we took a sum, in round figures about half a million of money, for the purpose

The Earl of Dartmouth.

of providing ranges. It is quite true that those ranges were primarily intended for the use of the Militia and regulars, but every effort is made to put them in places where they can be accessible to Volunteers also. The whole of that money has not yet been spent, for the obtainment of safe ranges in these days is a matter of enormous difficulty. You have, in the first place, to discover a suitable site, and then to come to terms with the owner—two operations which consume a considerable amount of time. Then, under the Military Works Loan Bill, which is now before Parliament, and which, I hope, will be before your Lordships in a few days, we take power to raise the sum of £40,000 for the purpose of assisting Volunteer corps in providing themselves with ranges. I have no doubt that that sum sounds a rather small one, but small as it is we hope to make it go a long way. What we propose to do is in districts where there is a deficiency of range accommodation, and where we find that the local corps are ready to combine for the purpose of procuring a range, to assist the corps by a grant from this fund—a grant which, perhaps, may not be a very large one, but which will certainly alleviate that burden of which my noble friend spoke so feelingly just now. We also propose to bring in this year new regulations dealing with the travelling expenses for Volunteers, to which we may also look for a palliative for the evil of insufficient range accommodation. The new regulations will be more advantageous to the force, and will work more fairly as between corps and corps than the present regulations have worked. The principal points of the new regulations are that the minimum distance in respect of which the travelling allowance will be granted will be reduced from five to two miles. The distance will be calculated from the sectional as well as the company headquarters, and, finally, the maximum grant will be raised from 4s. to 6s. per head. These are all concessions which I believe the Volunteer force will appreciate, and which will enable Volunteers to avail themselves more readily of the range accommodation at present existing. There is no use in concealing the fact that the difficulty of obtaining ranges has increased of late, and we must therefore look for the remedy of the evil complained of to a smaller number of perfectly safe ranges,

and to giving facilities to Volunteers to obtain access to them. The noble Earl on the Cross Benches suggested that we should inquire into a system of ranges which he tells us was prevalent in Switzerland, and under which, I understood him to say, the range was confined within a sort of tunnel constructed of timber baulks. I certainly would receive any helpful suggestion with the utmost respect, and I promise the noble Earl to make inquiries as to the system to which he has referred. I confess, at first sight, the suggestion rather alarms me, because, although our Volunteers shoot excellently, they are not all marksmen, and it strikes me as conceivable that an occasional bullet might find its way outside the limits of the noble Earl's tunnel. I certainly should not like to inhabit the neighbourhood of a butt protected in the way he suggests. I hope I have said enough to convince my noble friend that the matter to which he has called attention is not regarded with disfavour by the War Office. The noble Earl referred to the vicissitudes of the Volunteer Force, and spoke of the "epoch of ridicule" through which the Volunteer movement had passed. The noble Earl is not alone in thinking that that epoch, if ever it existed, has been left very far behind indeed, and I am sure those who had the good fortune, as I had myself, to see the magnificent march past of the Volunteers before the Prince of Wales on Saturday week must have been highly impressed with the efficiency and the national value of this branch of the Service.

EARL SPENCER: As I had the honour of asking the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for War some two years ago a question in almost the same terms as that which has been so ably put before the House to-night, I should like to have the opportunity of saying one or two words upon the subject. No one wishes to protect the public against the dangers of rifle ranges more than I do, but I cannot help thinking that the inspectors of these ranges may be carrying their care for the public too far. The noble Marquess has said that a range which was safe for the Martini-Henry rifle was fairly safe for the new rifle; and if that is so, why is it that such an enormous number of ranges have been closed since the introduction of the

new rifle? Were there many accidents? I scarcely remember any. I was exceedingly glad to hear what the noble Marquess said with regard to the proposal to assist Volunteers in finding ranges. I quite admit that it is impossible for the noble Marquess or the War Office to find ranges for every corps which is without one, but they may go a long way to render assistance. I venture to say that the difficulty in regard to rifle ranges for Volunteers is not to be met by increasing the travelling allowances to the force. The essence of success in regard to the rifle shooting of the Volunteers lies in the ranges being close to headquarters, so as to enable the men to take up rifle shooting as a pastime. That can only be provided by increasing the number of ranges, and I therefore hope the noble Marquess will be liberal in his treatment of corps which desire to provide such accommodation for themselves.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I hope the noble Earl opposite (Earl Spencer) does not understand me to suggest that I am indifferent to the value of ranges being close to the headquarters of Volunteer regiments. Where such ranges cannot be found—and I am afraid there are many parts of England where such ranges will not be found—I think the remedy is to give every possible facility for travelling to a range which is perfectly safe and properly equipped. I gather that the noble Earl thought our inspection of ranges of late was rather too stiff. Whether that is so or not, I cannot say. The noble Earl hinted that we might accept ranges which had been used for many years without any untoward result, and which possessed, so to speak, a clean bill of health. He must, however, remember that the conditions of these ranges are continually altering according to the amount of building in their neighbourhood. Speaking as Secretary of State, I should be sorry to take upon myself the responsibility of overruling an inspector upon the ground that his inspection had been a little too extreme. If, after overruling an inspector, a serious accident occurred, I think the Secretary of State would be likely to hear about it.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH: I desire to thank the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for War for the sympathetic reply he has given to my ques-

Earl Spencer.

tion, and I am sure the increased travelling grants which the noble Marquess has suggested will be of great value to Volunteers. My experience differs from that of the noble Marquess with regard to the relative safety of the Martini-Henry and the Lee-Metford rifles. The range to which I have referred was used for a great many years without known danger, but soon after the introduction of the Lee-Metford rifle a worthy citizen was unfortunately struck by a spent bullet.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS (OUTWORKERS).

*THE EARL OF ABERDEEN: My Lords, I beg to move for a Return showing the number of persons whose names are registered as outworkers in accordance with the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Acts, which require that the names of such persons employed in certain specified trades should be returned periodically to the factory inspectors. In bringing forward this motion very few words will be sufficient by way of explanation. Your Lordships may remember that the specified trades which are alluded to in this motion are the following: The making of wearing apparel, files, electro-plate, cabinet furniture, upholstery, and fur-pulling. Parliament has thus recognised this system of outworkers, which has attracted a good deal of attention, and, as the system of registering outworkers exists, some record should be given of its results. Something of the same sort exists locally, and I think I am right in saying that in the Factory Inspector's Report for the Manchester district for 1897 there is included a Return showing the number of outworkers in that district, and also the respective manufactures and employments in which they are engaged. I venture to hope that Her Majesty's Government will grant a Return of a similar kind, only a little more extended in its character, and giving not only the number of workers, but distinguishing the men from the women. A certain amount of time would necessarily be required to prepare this Return, but there is no hurry. If the Return is granted next session I shall be satisfied.

LORD BELPER: On behalf of the Home Secretary I have to say that there is no objection to giving the information asked for by the noble Earl, but

the Secretary of State thinks it would be more satisfactory if the Return is made in the annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, which is issued in the autumn. It will occasion very little delay, and the Return will be more complete.

*THE EARL OF ABERDEEN: That will entirely meet the object I have in view, and I will amend my motion in accordance with the noble Lord's suggestion.

Moved, That a humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that a statement be included in the next annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories showing the number of persons whose names are registered as outworkers in accordance with the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Acts, which require that the names of such persons employed in certain specified trades should be returned periodically to the Factory Inspectors.—(*The Viscount Gordon, E. Aberdeen.*) Agreed to and ordered accordingly.

**COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES BILL
[H.L.]**

THIRD READING.

Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

LORD BURGHCLERE: In moving the Third Reading of this Bill I should like to thank the noble Viscount (Viscount Cross) for the assistance he has given me in bringing the Bill to its present stage. The Bill, as amended, will enable provision to be made for the improvement and regulation of many commons in the country, and I trust that with the assistance of the Government in another place the measure will be placed on the Statute Book during the present session.

Moved, "That the Bill be read 3^a."—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

VISCOUNT CROSS: No one is more anxious than I am to see the Bill pass. I entirely agree that the Bill, as it stands, will greatly cheapen the method of dealing with the regulation of commons, and especially of small commons, throughout the country. I am very glad that the Amendments I have had the honour to move will make the Bill work on safe lines. I hope the Bill may pass through

the House of Commons, though, of course, I cannot answer for that. I know it is the anxious wish of the President of the Board of Agriculture that it should pass this session.

On Question, agreed to—

Read 3^a, accordingly; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

SEA FISHERIES BILL [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE AT KHARTOUM BILL [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The EARL OF HALSBURY): My Lords, this Bill is considered to be rendered necessary by a technicality. You are, no doubt, familiar with the fact that subscriptions were lavishly given by the public for the purpose of establishing a college at Khartoum. Some of the persons who have been applied to will not accept the office of trustee—a somewhat perilous and difficult office sometimes to accept—without knowing all the responsibility involved. They have been advised—at present I do not say whether I entirely agree with the advice given them or not—that, in the event of this being treated as a public trust, it is a trust which might be enforced in the Court of Chancery by the Attorney-General by way of information, and the persons who are to act as trustees would require to be indemnified, if they could be in some way, against any breach of trust by investing in Egyptian securities. Undoubtedly, it would be outside the power of an ordinary English trustee to invest in Egyptian securities. The result is that they have declined to accept the trust at all unless they are indemnified by Parliament. It was therefore thought proper that a Bill should be brought before your Lordships to enable these trustees to act with perfect security. I think your lordships will do as every subscriber would do if he could be personally consulted,

and will allow these trustees to invest in Egyptian securities.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order); and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

House adjourned at half-past Six of the clock, till to-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 17th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [Lords].

Standing Orders applicable thereto complied with.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [Lords].

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 3) BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow.

BIRMINGHAM CORPORATION BILL.

MILTON CREEK CONSERVANCY BILL.

WOKING WATER AND GAS BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

GREENOCK AND PORT GLASGOW TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (PILOTAGE) BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

WORKINGTON CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL [Lords].

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 11) BILL [Lords].

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14) BILL [Lords].

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 15) BILL [Lords].

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [Lords].

GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 15) BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for Third Reading read.

*MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth). Before this Bill is read the third time I want to point out that the clause relating to preaching on the sands at Rhyl has no doubt been greatly modified. But the provision in the Provisional Order does not really do more than maintain the old common law. What I wish to say without opposing this Bill and putting off the Third Reading in consequence, is simply that the Wesleyan Church has had furnished to it a very long list of bye-laws of county councils and boroughs which contain the original powers which have been modified in this Order, and we shall do our best, when opportunity offers, to get the law altered so that the right of public preaching may be unrestrained, and in any case that these bye-laws may conform to the improved conditions which the Committee have unanimously imposed on the town of Rhyl.

Bill read the third time and passed.

WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

PETITIONS.**SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.**

Petition from Shillington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Petition from Southampton, against; to lie upon the Table.

WORKHOUSES (CONFINEMENT CASES) (DETENTION OF MOTHERS OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN).

Petition from Orsett, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.**ARMY COMMISSIONS.**

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 30th June—*Mr. Pirie*]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY RETURNS.

Copy presented, of Return as to the Capital, Traffic Receipts, and Working Expenditure, etc., of the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom for the year 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COURT OF PROBATE DIVISION (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE) (IRELAND).

Annual Account presented, of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended 31st December, 1898 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 280.]

GLANDERS (DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE).

Copy presented, of Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture to inquire into and report upon the working of the Diseases of Animals Acts in so far as they relate to Glanders; together with the Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2318 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TUNIS (EXPORTS FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE.)

Address for "Return showing the value of goods exported into Tunis by Great Britain and France respectively in the years 1880, 1885, 1890, 1895, and 1897."—(*Mr. Crombie.*)

QUESTIONS.**BRITISH NAVAL OFFICERS IN THE SOUDAN.**

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (York): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty, seeing that British military officers serving in the Soudan were allowed to count their time for promotion, under Article 22 of the Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion, and for retirement, under Article 500 (a) and (c), will he explain why British naval officers serving before the enemy in the Soudan campaigns are not allowed to count their time for promotion and for retirement; and in view of the fact that the naval officer commanding the Naval Brigade in the 1884-5 campaign was not allowed to count that time towards promotion, and the naval officer commanding the Naval Brigade in the 1896-8 campaign was not allowed to count his time towards retirement, whether he can see his way to recommending Her Majesty that in future all naval officers on active service before the enemy, assisting the Army in land campaigns, shall be allowed to count such time for promotion and pension after they have served three years in command of a ship-of-war at sea, whether such command takes place before or after their service on shore.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): The noble Lord is in error in supposing that the British naval officers serving in the Soudan on the occasions in question were not allowed to count their time for retirement. Under the regulations the time has been allowed to count in full towards retirement, but not for promotion. With reference to promotion, the conditions of the naval and military services are obviously dissimilar. The Admiralty have always attached the greatest importance to the strict fulfilment of the conditions which require for the promotion of naval officers certain fixed periods of service in a ship-of-war at

sea. Although, in the case of captains, service obtained previously to the fulfilment of this condition counts towards increase of their full and half pay, and pension, and retirement, it is not allowed to count towards promotion. To this rule it is intended to adhere. The previous qualification of three years' service required in the case of captains has, by a recent Order in Council, been reduced to two. In no case has it occurred that officers employed in such services as those mentioned in the question have failed to obtain the necessary time for promotion.

ARTIFICIAL DYES FOR NAVY SERGE.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he is aware that a firm of dyers in Wellington, Somerset, have purchased forty tons of foreign artificial indigo, and are using it for dyeing Navy contract cloth; and whether, to ensure the Navy getting the class of goods paid for, he will have the word "natural" inserted before the word "indigo" in all future Navy contracts for cloth.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): I have no information as to the purchase alluded to in the first paragraph of my noble friend's question; but no contract is at present held by any firm in Wellington for cloth. I am considering whether the use of a natural dye can be secured by an alteration in the specification.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE EXAMINATION.

CAPTAIN GREVILLE (Bradford, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether his attention has been called to the fact that the dates fixed for entry, 17th July, and of examination, 28th July, of candidates for the Army Medical Service will have the effect of excluding from competition young men who may have obtained their diplomas at the Victoria University and other examining bodies during the month of July, but the results of whose examinations are not published till 27th July; and whether it would be possible to postpone the dates of entry and examination for a few weeks in order to allow successful students to compete.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover):** The

date of the examination was notified on the 10th May, and appeared in the newspapers on the 12th May. The first intimation that the date would debar University candidates reached the War Office on the 11th July, when it was too late to alter the arrangements.

BARRACKS, NEW AND OLD.

SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he will cause a map of the United Kingdom to be placed in the Tea Room for the information of Members, distinguishing by coloured dashes and combination of coloured dashes sites of barracks in existence in 1871; sites where barracks were altered or built under the provisions of the Localisation Act, 1872; sites where barracks were altered, or built, or are in process of building, under the provisions of the Barrack Act, 1897; sites where barracks were altered, built, or are in process of building, under the provisions of the Barrack Act, 1890; sites where barracks are to be altered or built under the provisions of the Military Works Bill; and enclosing in a black circle those sites disused, and the date of their disuse, since 1871.

***MR. WYNDHAM:** I cannot promise a map exhibiting all the information asked for by the hon. and gallant Member, but I will have one prepared giving as much detail as can be collected without undue delay.

SIR J. COLOMB: Will it be in the Library before the Committee Stage of the Works Bill is reached?

***MR. WYNDHAM:** That will depend on the arrangement of the business of the House. I hope to get it done within the week.

NAVAL OFFICERS IN WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, in view of the official statement that the work in Woolwich Arsenal would be carried out jointly by naval and military officers, will he state how many naval officers are now employed in the Arsenal, and whether any of them are under notice to leave; if so, how many, and how many naval officers will remain; also, how many inspecting officers there are, and how many are naval men; and,

whether, in view of the experience of naval officers in guns and gun mounting, and their special knowledge of naval requirements, he will consider the advisability of employing as many naval officers as military officers in the Arsenal.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Two naval officers were formerly employed in the Arsenal. The posts held by them have been abolished, and a fresh post will be created, which will always be filled by a naval officer. Only three naval officers have qualified for the Inspection Staff, and they are all now employed as inspectors, one of them at Woolwich. It is not easy to find highly qualified naval officers willing to give up the sea service necessary to advancement in order to take an appointment on shore. The Secretary of State and the First Lord of the Admiralty have not failed to confer with reference to the employment of naval officers in the Arsenal.

SIR J. COLOMB: Does "naval officers" include officers of the Royal Marine Artillery?

*MR. WYNDHAM: There are, as the hon. and gallant Member knows, some officers of the Royal Marine Artillery employed, but the figures I have given I think refer only to officers of the Royal Navy.

CANTEEN AND MESS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office, in reference to the contract for groceries, provisions, &c., in Cork Military District, whether he has seen a list of the prices for articles largely in consumption at which a local firm and the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society respectively tendered to supply; whether he will cause inquiry to be made as to why the contract for groups 2 and 4, groceries, provisions, etc., was placed with the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society at prices higher than tendered for by a local contractor who had previously satisfactorily supplied the Cork District for many years; and can he state whether the General Officer at present commanding the Cork District is bound by the promise of the Secretary of State for War in April, 1895, to the effect that the Department was moving in the direction of procuring good articles at

a moderate price in the district itself; and, if so, will the attention of the General Officer commanding be called to the declaration of general policy in regard to contracts for military supplies.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (MR. J. POWELL WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): In answer to the first paragraph of the question, I have to say that I have seen an incomplete list of prices furnished to me by the hon. Member. Comparison of articles by price list irrespective of quality is no guarantee of value; the contract for groups 2 and 4 was placed with the Co-operative Society on account of the better value offered to the soldier. I find on inquiry that the board which selected this society for groups 2 and 4 also selected local firms for other groups, and there seems no reason why their judgment should have erred in one case and not in the other. In answer to the third paragraph, the General Officer commanding, Cork, favours the placing of canteen contracts locally, provided that the interests of the soldier do not suffer thereby.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): Is the hon. Gentleman aware that on the occasion referred to in the question the late Secretary for War expressed the opinion that the sounder system was to permit canteen committees to exercise their own discretion in these matters?

*MR. J. POWELL WILLIAMS: That is precisely what they do do.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office is he aware that Major Rawnsley, who has recently been appointed Inspector of Canteen Supplies in Cork Military District, was connected with the board of the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society in 1896: and whether it is in accordance with the rules of the Service that a trading society so closely connected with officers on active service should compete with ordinary traders in the contracts for military supplies, in view of the fact that these officers are concerned in the approval or rejection of tenders.

*MR. J. POWELL WILLIAMS: It is a part of the duty of Major Rawnsley, as an officer of the Army Service Corps, to assist in inspecting canteen supplies; but the canteen management of each district is subject to the periodical independent

inspections of the Deputy Assistant Adjutant-Generals for Supply Inspection, neither of whom are interested in the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society. The second paragraph of the hon. Member's question has already been answered.

RED SEA TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what is the sum in rupees payable this year from the revenue of India to the late Red Sea Telegraph Company ; how much has been contributed from the revenues of India to that company since 1865, when its cable was lost ; on what ground has this contribution been made ; and can any plan of commutation or compromise be arranged with the representatives of the late company for the relief of the Indian revenue from this charge.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) : My right hon. friend has asked me to answer the question addressed to him to-day. The reply to this question is as follows : In round figures the payment this year on account of Red Sea and Indian Telegraphs is estimated at 274,000 rupees ; the exact payment will be £18,027. The payments since the 1st of April, 1865, have been £18,027 for thirty-four years (excluding the current year), amounting to £512,918. The contribution is made to Her Majesty's Exchequer under the provisions of the Red Sea and India Telegraph Company Act of 1862 (25 and 26 Vict., c. 39, sec. 7). The last payment will be made on the 4th of August, 1908.

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state whether any recommendations have been made by the Viceroy to the Legislative Council of Bengal in regard to the composition of the corporation and of the general committee under the Calcutta Municipal Bill at present under consideration ; and, if so, whether he is in a position to state their nature.

MR. BRODRICK (for Lord G. HAMILTON) : The Government of India, after receiving the Calcutta Municipal

Bill as amended by the Select Committee of the Local Legislative, is consulting the Bengal Government as to the attitude of the Government on the further stage of the Bill. At the present time, while discussion between the two Governments is proceeding, it would not be convenient for me to make any statement regarding the views of the Government of India on the subject.

PRINCE RANJITSINGJI.

The following question appeared on the Paper :—

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central) : To ask the Secretary of State for India whether in September, 1878, Kumar Shri Ranjitsingji Vibhaji, commonly known as Prince Ranjitsingji, was formerly raised by his adoptive father, the late Jam Saheb of Nowanagar, to be the heir and successor of His Highness to the Gadi of Nowanagar, in accordance with Rajput custom, with the sanction and approval of the Indian Government, subject to the condition that nothing should be allowed to disturb his settled status and succession except the birth of a son born to Jam Saheb by one of his Rajput wives, wedded to him by such nuptial ties as alone were sanctioned amongst Rajputs by law, custom, and religion, and were then entitled to the rank, dignity, and appellation of a Rani ; whether he is aware that the late Jam Saheb had thirteen legitimate Rani wives and five Mohammedan concubines, four of whom were sisters, and that none of the Rani wives bore him a son who survived ; will he explain why in 1885, notwithstanding the above arrangement, the Indian Government, without any previous notice to Prince Ranjitsingji or his natural father, and without public and legal inquiry into the facts, decided to allow the Jam Saheb to set aside Prince Ranjitsingji as heir to the Gadi in favour of Jasavantsingji, the son of one of the aforesaid Mohammedan concubines, who was not a Rani, and whose son, even if born to the Jam Saheb, was excluded from the succession by the instrument to which the Government was a party, under which Prince Ranjitsingji's adoption and heirship could only be nullified by the birth of a legitimate son to a Rani ; whether, in spite of repeated applications, Prince Ranjitsingji has not been informed

by the Indian Government of the grounds on which the Gadi was taken from him, and has been refused any inquiry into his rights ; and whether he will order that a commission of inquiry shall issue as to the legal rights of Prince Ranjitsingji in the circumstances, under Rajput law and custom, and the engagement of the Indian Government.

The Question was not asked, the hon. Member in whose name it stood having postponed it at the request of the noble Lord the Secretary of State for India.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff) : I desire to ask you, Sir, whether it is in order for an hon. Member of this House to suggest, as is done in this question, that a native Prince who has been duly recognised by the Government of India may not be the son of his supposed father, and that his mother was one of a family of four sisters, who were all concubines of the late Rajah ?

MR. SPEAKER : The question, I understand, is not asked at present. The hon. Member had better wait until it is asked.

SIR H. H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) : May I call your attention to the question, Sir, and ask you whether it is in order to put into a question a great many disputed questions as statements of fact ? It is a very serious mode of making accusations both against the Government of India and certain native Princes which, I think, when the Question comes to be answered, will be found to be without basis in fact.

MR. SPEAKER : My attention has not been particularly called to the exact framing of the question, but I will look at it carefully ; and if I think it is irregular I will take care that it is put down in an amended shape or not at all.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST PLAGUE.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the attention of the Government has been directed to the danger of the advance of plague by way of Persia and Turkey into Europe ; and whether they are taking, or will take, steps to obtain the co-operation of the Great Powers in inducing the Governments of Persia and Turkey to

take effectual measures for checking the advance of plague in those countries.

***MR. BRODRICK** : Her Majesty's Government believe that the principles of the Venice (Plague) Convention of 1897 are sufficient to protect any country adopting them from the danger of an invasion of plague. That Convention is based on the principle that a country should place its sanitary organisation in such a condition that it can easily deal with any case of plague that may be imported into or be detected in its territory. Her Majesty's Government would be very glad to see the Governments of Persia and Turkey place their sanitary organisation in a condition that would enable them to adopt the Convention and carry out its provisions, and have, in concert with the other Signatory Powers, taken steps to make their views known to the Governments in question.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he could, consistently with the public interest, now state the number of Uitlanders in the South African Republic that would within a reasonable time receive the franchise for the first Volksraad ; and how many seats they would be able to command under the latest proposals of President Kruger.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) : I do not know what the hon. Member means by a reasonable time, but Sir A. Milner considers that under President Kruger's scheme the number enfranchised would be considerably less than half of those who might come in under Sir. A. Milner's. As regards the second question, Sir A. Milner says it is uncertain whether they would be able to command any of the four seats, although it cannot be positively affirmed that they would not.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN : Can the right hon. Gentleman say if that is President Kruger's own version of the law, as he is now in communication with him ?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : If the hon. Gentleman had done me the honour of listening to my reply, he would have heard that I had stated it on Sir Alfred Milner's authority.

MR. COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin): Is my right hon. friend able to say within what time the half would come on. Would it be immediately?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I assume that it means immediately. There would immediately be something considerably less than one-half of the number that would come on under Sir Alfred Milner's scheme. But whatever number comes on, in Sir Alfred Milner's opinion it is not certain they would gain a seat.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say how soon half of the people of India will be admitted to the franchise?

(No answer was given to the question).

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the three batteries of artillery stated by him to be under orders for South Africa are reliefs or reinforcements.

MR. WYNDHAM: They are sent as reliefs; but if circumstances should require such a step, the batteries now in South Africa might be retained, and the reliefs in that case would become reinforcements.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether there is any foundation for the statement in the *Cape Times* that Sir Alfred Milner's despatch of 4th May was not intended for immediate publication.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir.

SOUTH AMERICAN LIVE STOCK TRADE.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick's): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he can state how many vessels in the South American live stock trade were blacklisted; and how many of those have been released, and for what reason.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): I have nothing to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on the 7th inst. with regard to this question, which reappears on the Paper in the same form later on.

THE DOG MUZZLING ORDER IN YORKSHIRE.

COLONEL GUNTER: (York, W.R., Barkston Ash): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he is now in a position to say when the muzzling order will be taken off the agricultural parts of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

MR. LONG: I am not yet in a position to make any definite announcement on this subject, but I recognise the patience and co-operation which has been extended to me in the performance of a difficult duty, and I hope it may not be long before I am able to give effect to the wishes of my hon. and gallant friend and his colleagues in this matter. In the case of the West Riding the only obstacle is my desire to complete the arrangements necessary for preventing the re-introduction of the disease.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he will state the amounts which will be deducted from the sums payable to the Counties of Devonshire, Exeter, Plymouth, and Devonport, respectively, out of the Local Taxation Grant under the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill.

MR. LONG: The share of the counties and county boroughs named in a sum of £87,000 distributed in the proportion of what are known as the "discontinued grants" would amount to £1,297, £123, £183, and £100, respectively.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether the Sheffield City Council are correct in estimating that the effect of the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill will be to diminish the amount receivable by Sheffield in aid of the rates to the extent of about £700 per annum, none of which will, under the Bill, be receivable by Sheffield clergy.

MR. LONG: The share of Sheffield in a sum of £87,000 distributed on the basis of the "discontinued grants" is £686. I cannot say definitely what operation the Bill would have so far as the incumbents of benefices within the borough are concerned, but my impression is that in the case of one of the townships some little relief will be given. In most of the others land appears to have been allotted

in lieu of tithes prior to 1836; but whether the land is rateable, and if so, on what basis, I have no means of knowing.

IRISH CUSTOMS OFFICERS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) : I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a uniform is issued to, and must be worn on duty by Customs Officers in Ireland; what is the first cost of the uniform for each grade of officer to the State; and what is the amount which the officer of each grade is obliged to pay for the uniform. I beg further to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government supply uniforms to Customs Officers in Ireland; what is the price paid per uniform by the State; and what is the price charged for the uniform to each officer.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.) : Uniform must be worn by Customs Officers when on duty. There is no charge by the State to Customs Officers of any rank for their uniform. Some of the lower grades of officers are supplied with uniforms at the public expense. Other Customs Officers procure their uniforms at their own expense. In the latter case, I have no means of knowing the amounts paid by individual officers.

BURIAL LAWS.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of legislation for the amendment of the Burial Laws, he will refrain from compelling burial authorities who have to provide additional unconsecrated ground in cemeteries to also provide additional consecrated ground, although it is not at the present time required.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) : While the law as to the consecration of burial grounds stands I must, of course, enforce it; but it is quite consistent with the practice of the Home Office in doing so that where sufficient consecrated ground exists for present uses the consecration of a portion of any additional ground should be postponed.

CASE OF MARY ANSELL.

MR. DALZIEL : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department a question of which I have given him private notice; whether, with reference to the decision arrived at in regard to the case of Mary Ansell, consideration was given to the fact that her two sisters are insane; that all her mother's sisters died in asylums; that Dr. Forbes Winslow, the eminent specialist, has pronounced as his emphatic opinion that the prisoner was not responsible for her actions; and, further, that no evidence on the question of insanity was produced at the trial; and whether he has any objection to the publication of the Report of the two experts appointed to inquire into the case.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY : Following the course which has always been adopted by my predecessors, I must decline to lay before the House a Report made for the purpose of assisting me in giving advice to Her Majesty, for which I alone am responsible. I may, however, state that all the circumstances of the case, including the family history of the convict, were most anxiously considered by me as well as by those who assisted me. The opinion of Dr. Forbes Winslow—who was, however, not consulted by me—was also before me and was fully considered.

THE COTTAGE HOMES BILL.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) : I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will bring to the knowledge of boards of guardians by circular the portions of the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Cottage Homes Bill which can be carried out under the existing law; and what portions of the Report would need legislation.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford) : The Report of the Select Committee referred to was only delivered a few days since, and the evidence taken by the Committee has not yet been issued. I am considering the Report, but I am not at present in a position to say what course should be adopted with regard to it. Legislation would apparently be required to give effect to some at least of the recommendations, but the question of legislation is

not urgent, for in any case it could not be attempted this session.

MARYLEBONE INFIRMARY.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has sanctioned the Marylebone Board of Guardians' expenditure of £12,000 on a new infirmary, probation wards, and receiving house at their schools at Southall; and if he will state what is to be done with the old infirmary, probation ward, and receiving house.

MR. CHAPLIN: The answer to the first paragraph of the question is in the affirmative. The expenditure will include the conversion of the present infirmary into class rooms. There is at present no probationary ward or receiving house at Southall. There will be no addition to the number of children certified for the school.

TREATMENT OF PAUPER CHILDREN.

MR. FLOWER: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will grant a Return of the number of children who are in infirmaries, work-houses, schools, scattered homes, certified homes, or are boarded out; of the number of such children who are under the care of each inspector, with the areas in which the inspection is arranged.

MR. CHAPLIN: The particulars which my hon. friend asks for in the first part of his question will be found in the half-yearly Returns of pauperism which are presented to Parliament of the number of children maintained by the guardians. The latest of these Returns was ordered on the 8th March and issued in May, 1899, and I would draw the attention of my hon. friend to the figures in this Return. With regard to the second part of the question, these children are inspected by a variety of different inspectors, according to the class to which they belong. I am not quite clear whether my hon. friend refers to all or to some of these inspectors, nor would it be easy in any case to give the information on these points.

SUTTON SCHOOLS.

MR. TREVELYAN (York, W. R., Elland): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the Metropolitan Asylums Board have purchased the Sutton Schools at a price

of £203,000, and propose to transfer the improvable children from Darent Asylum to the boys' and infants' blocks; whether the Local Government Board have assented to this expenditure for this purpose; how many children these blocks will accommodate; and whether the Local Government Board are advised that the strong recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Defective and Epileptic Children, that no more than twenty children should be accommodated in one home, can safely be neglected in this case; if not, whether he proposes to take any steps to see that the recommendations are not neglected.

MR. CHAPLIN: The Metropolitan Asylums Board have agreed to purchase the property referred to, and the necessary Order will shortly be issued by the Local Government Board. It is believed that the Asylums Board contemplate using the infants' block for the reception of improvable imbecile children; but the scheme has not yet been formally submitted to the Local Government Board. The exact accommodation in the blocks in question cannot yet be stated, but the Committee of the Asylums Board, who visited them, estimated that the infants' block would accommodate 250, and the boys' block 450 imbeciles. The Local Government Board are advised that the premises can be rendered suitable for the proposed purpose, but the details have not yet been settled. It must be borne in mind that the children at Darent are certified imbeciles, and are not defective children of the kind to which the Report of the Departmental Committee mentioned in the question related.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD EXPENDITURE.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Hertfordshire, Hertford): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, in view of the auditor of the London School Board having disallowed important items of expenditure in connection with science and art classes under the Board, the Education Department will take steps to prevent the Board from continuing to incur this illegal expenditure for the new school year, beginning next September, in defiance of the auditor's decision; whether continued illegal action by the Board renders it liable to be declared in default; and what steps will the Department take.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION
(Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The Committee of Council have no reason to believe that the London or any other School Board will deliberately break the law. But it is not their duty to supervise the expenditure by School Boards of the school rate, and they are advised that an illegal application of such rate would not justify them in declaring a School Board in default.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Is my right hon. friend aware that the School Board referred to has, within his own knowledge, specifically broken the law?

SIR J. GORST: It is not within my official knowledge. I have seen in the ordinary channels of information that the auditor has surcharged certain items, but I am also informed, through the same channels, that the London School Board has appealed against the decision.

SECRETARY FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION.

MR. JEBB (Cambridge University): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the appointment recently announced of a Principal Assistant Secretary of the Science and Art Department, and a Principal Assistant Secretary of the Education Department, is to be understood as indicating that it is contemplated to organise the Education Office in two principal departments only—one for elementary and the other for technical education, secondary education proper being treated as subsidiary to, or included in the latter; whether he is aware that the willingness to accept inspection which has been intimated by the authorities of many public secondary schools rested on the belief, created by the speeches of the Lord President of the Council on 1st August, 1898, and 2nd May, 1899, that in the re-organised Education Office there would be a department for secondary education proper, separate from that for technical education, or including the latter as a sub-division; and whether he can give an assurance that, in any re-constitution of the Education Office which may follow the passing of the Board of Education Bill, secondary education shall be represented by a secretary distinct from, and not subordinate

to, those who have charge of elementary and technical education respectively.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg at the same time to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, with a view to allaying certain apprehensions entertained by teachers in the higher secondary schools, he will state, either now or when the Board of Education Bill comes again before the House, the administrative arrangements which Her Majesty's Government contemplate for enabling the proposed Board of Education to discharge the new duties proposed to be entrusted to it with regard to secondary and technical education, so far as any conclusions regarding those arrangements have yet been reached.

SIR J. GORST: The Committee of Council are of opinion that the work of the Board of Education in relation to secondary education will differ widely in character and extent from that which relates to elementary education and science and art teaching. The division of the Board charged with secondary education proper cannot be completely organised till some experience has been obtained of the extent and character of the work. But it is not intended to entrust this work to either of the existing Departments, but to a third official, whose responsibility to the principal secretary will be distinct from and equal to that of the two existing assistant secretaries. Instructions to that effect will be given to the Departmental Committee which will consider the organisation of the Department.

MR. BRYCE: Is it intended that this Departmental Committee shall begin to consider this question as soon as the Bill now before the House has passed?

SIR J. GORST: I am afraid I cannot answer that question without notice.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): Will a representative of secondary education be placed on this Departmental Committee?

SIR J. GORST: I am afraid I must also have notice of that question.

ORKNEY SHERIFF CLERK.

SIR LEONARD LYELL (Orkney and Shetlands): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he can state the condi-

tions on which the Sheriff Clerk for Orkney was appointed, and particularly whether these terms precluded him from acting as factor for local proprietors.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) : The commission of the Sheriff Clerk of Orkney, who was appointed in 1892, is in the same terms as that of his predecessor. I have no information as to what duties the Sheriff Clerk is able to perform for local proprietors, but he is not precluded from undertaking them by the terms of his commission.

CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH IRELAND.

MR. FIELD : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he can state how much money has been spent upon laying cables between England and Ireland, and what has been the financial result to the Government; whether complaints have been received regarding insufficient means of telegraphic communication; and whether he will increase the number of wires to meet public convenience.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston) : I cannot state how much money has been spent upon laying cables between England and Ireland, or what has been the financial result. Some of the cables were laid by the old telegraph companies, and the price paid for them by the State cannot be distinguished in the purchase-money of the undertakings of the companies. There has been little complaint recently regarding insufficient means of communication, as an additional cable containing four wires has been laid and brought into use this year. So far as the requirements of the public are concerned, there appears to be no necessity to further increase the number of wires.

DUBLIN POST OFFICE.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if he is aware that "learners" employed at a salary of 6s. per week in the Dublin Post Office have been compelled to perform despatching duties similar to those performed by officers in receipt of salaries of from 20s. per week upwards; if, on protesting against performing such duties,

they were informed by a paper from the Controller of the Sorting Office, Dublin, that if they did not wish to do these duties they could go and seek work elsewhere; and if arrangements will be made to allow the officers in question to perform none but learning duties until they are paid a higher wage than 6s. per week, i.e., when they are placed on the established list and receive the initial salary of 12s. per week.

MR. HANBURY : The learners to whom the hon. Member refers perform half a day's work in the Dublin Sorting Office on the minor despatching duties as part of their training, and for this they receive 6s. a week, or half the minimum pay of the established class for a full day's work. During the remaining four hours of the day's attendance they are employed in learning telegraphy and other postal duties. It would not, of course, be possible to certify that the learners are fit for permanent employment until they have had practical experience of the work, and the Postmaster-General sees no reason for altering the arrangement, which is obviously in their own interests. Certain of the Dublin learners appear to have objected to this arrangement, and they were properly informed that, if they were not prepared to comply with the regulations of the office, it would be better for them to seek other employment.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if he is aware that, owing to insufficiency of staff on evening duty in the Dublin Sorting Office, despatching officers are not allowed sufficient time to do their duties carefully, and therefore the missending of correspondence to the inconvenience of the public is inevitable; and that the said despatching officers are punished month after month by being compelled to do extra duty without payment owing to this system; and whether a number of officers have been called upon for explanations to know why their annual salary increments should not be arrested for missending irregularities which occurred under such conditions, and if he will order the withdrawal of those explanations, and have arrangements made by which the officers are allowed sufficient time for the performance of their duties.

MR. HANBURY: The staff employed on the evening duty in the Dublin Sorting Office is sufficient, and under ordinary circumstances the despatching officers have ample time to perform their duties properly. Cases of missending are now less frequent, and the amount of punishment inflicted on that account is considerably less than formerly. Certain of the officers, however, who were frequently reported for careless missending of correspondence have been properly called upon for explanation and for any reasons they might have to urge why their increments of pay should not be arrested. In only one instance, however, has it been found necessary to withhold the increment.

FEMALE TELEGRAPHISTS IN LONDON.

MR. M'GHEE (Louth, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, will he explain why female telegraphists in London, who are in receipt of 3s. per week, and receive in addition 3s. 6d. per week as risk money, paid weekly, have recently been called upon to furnish a receipt stamp for these payments, seeing that for neither amount can it be legally demanded and that separate receipts are given for the two amounts.

MR. HANBURY: The amounts in question, though shown separately on the pay sheets for departmental purposes, really form the remuneration of the officer for the week, and in cases where the total is £2 and upwards a receipt stamp is required by law.

BELFAST TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if in the branch telegraph sub-offices of Belfast, which are offices for the despatch but not the receiving of telegrams, there is any established system of reliefs through which assistants in such offices may have practice occasionally in the receiving of telegraphic messages; are all branch sub-offices in Belfast sufficiently provided with lavatory and other necessary sanitary accommodation for the assistants employed therein; and, if not, will he state whether the official in charge of the Department is responsible; and will the Postmaster-General permit, as he has so satisfactorily done in the case of

the Belfast central office, the sanitary authority to inspect these sub-offices.

MR. HANBURY: There are two branch post offices in Belfast, which despatch but do not receive telegrams. In these cases the staff is established, and their duties rotate with those of the head office staff. There are also several town sub-post offices, which despatch but do not receive telegrams. In these cases the assistants are not established, but are servants of the sub-postmasters, and they have no opportunity of receiving telegrams. Both the branch post offices are provided with adequate lavatory and sanitary accommodation, and there is no objection to the local sanitary authority inspecting them; but the sub-post offices being on the private premises of the sub-postmasters, the Department has no power, as regards them, to give permission for an inspection, but they are subject to the ordinary sanitary regulations of the town.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION REPORT.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, when the Annual Report of the Irish Land Commission for the year ending the 31st March, 1899, will be published; and whether any efforts will be made to place it in the hands of Members at the earliest opportunity.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): This Report is almost ready and will, it is expected, be laid on the Table in the course of the present week.

ESTATES IN THE LAND JUDGES' COURT.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether complete returns of the estates in the Land Judges' Court to which the 40th section of the Land Act, 1896, applies have been published; and, if not, will he explain why; and whether he can give any assurance that the work in arrears will be expedited.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Three returns of estates over which receivers have been appointed, prepared in relation to proceedings under the enactment referred to, were laid on the Table of the House in May, 1897, and March, 1898. A further return on the subject will, it is expected, be ready for presentation early next year.

TRIM UNION NIGHT NURSE.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the guardians of the Trim Union have a night nurse whose hours of duty are ten hours a night for seven nights in the week, and is also bound by the guardians to attend all maternity cases in the day time, as there is no qualified day nurse for the maternity ward; has this fact been brought under the notice of the Local Government Board; and what action, if any, has the Board taken in the matter.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The reply to the first paragraph of the question is in the affirmative. The hours of duty of the night nurse, from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., are not as a rule objected to by night nurses. The duty devolving on the night nurse of attending on maternity cases is seldom exercised. Only six cases of the kind have occurred during the last fifteen months. The attention of the Local Government Board has recently been drawn to the matter, and they have called upon the Medical Officer for a report as to the nursing arrangements in the workhouse. This report has not yet been received.

THE WILLIAM BUTLER ESTATE,
COUNTY CLARE.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can explain the delay in completing the sale to the tenants of lots 5, 8, and 10, part of the William Butler estate in County Clare and County Galway, ordered by Mr. Justice Ross to be sold under the 40th Section of the Land Act, 1896, on the 18th of December, 1897.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am informed that several difficulties have arisen as to the resettlement of the rental of the holdings on the lots mentioned, and that considerable delay has also been occasioned by the tenants on lot 5 subdividing the holding among themselves without the authority of the Court, and the refusal of two of the tenants to comply with the undertaking given by their solicitor when the Order of December, 1897, was made.

BALTIMORE RAILWAY AND PIER.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ire-

land whether the Congested Districts Board, the Treasury, and the Cork and Bandon Railway Company guaranteed £3,500 each for the completion of the Baltimore Railway and Pier to deep water; whether the Cork and Bandon Railway Company have not fulfilled their agreement; whether the Congested Districts Board will take up the completion of this work; whether he is aware that in consequence of this want of connection the large amount previously expended cannot be utilised for the transit of fish; and whether he will recommend a grant for the purpose.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: This question is a repetition of one put to me on Monday last by the hon. Member for Kilkenny on behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, and I must refer to the answer then given by me.

IRISH GOLD ORNAMENTS AND
TREASURE TROVE.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if the Government have taken the opinion on the Question of treasure trove of the Irish law officers with regard to the Irish gold ornaments; and, if so, if he will state what that opinion is.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The Irish law officers have advised, but a question has been raised by the trustees of the British Museum as to the exact effect of their opinion. Further reference has therefore become necessary.

THE VOLUNTEER VOTE.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): On behalf of the hon. and gallant Member for the Rye Division of Sussex, I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, when the Army Estimates are next discussed, he will be able to arrange that a portion of the time thus expended may include the Volunteer Vote.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I propose to take the Navy and Army Votes on Friday; and I believe that the Volunteer Vote stands first among the Army Votes at present undiscussed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I beg to ask the First

Lord of the Treasury whether he will make a statement to the House as to public business.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : Yes, Sir ; I propose to make the statement to-day.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN : On making your motion ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : Yes, Sir.

THE PREMATURE PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside) : I wish to know whether your attention, Mr. Speaker, has been called to the second special Report of the Select Committee appointed by this House to consider the Cottage Homes Bill, and to the evidence given before the Committee that it is the practice for confidential and private documents to be sent, unprotected by sealed covers, from the Committee rooms to the printers ; and whether any steps will be taken to change this practice in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee.

*MR. SPEAKER : My attention has been called to the Report of the Committee, and I have made inquiries. As indeed appears from the Report, the practice referred to has been the practice of the Committee clerks for a great many years—as far back as the memory of any present officer goes. But it does not appear to be a good practice or one that is not capable of amendment ; and I may say that it has already been amended. The Clerk of the House a fortnight ago gave directions that such documents should in future be placed in locked bags or boxes, and in sealed envelopes.

MR. PAULTON (Durham, Bishop Auckland) : There is a question I should wish to ask with reference to the last recommendation in the special Report of the Committee, which is :

" In view of the repeated publication of such documents, your Committee recommend that the Lobby representative of any newspaper who publishes privileged documents should be excluded from the precincts of the House."

I desire to ask you, Sir, whether any question concerning the carrying out of that recommendation would be entirely within your own discretion and jurisdiction, or whether it would require any expression of opinion on the part of this House ?

*MR. SPEAKER : I think it would be within my discretion to deal with cases of that kind. With regard to this particular case I have not considered it with reference to what steps I should take. But probably I should require further evidence than there is in the Report of the Committee, in order to justify me in taking any action.

MR. PAULTON : As it is a matter affecting the privileges of this House, I desire to call your attention to the fact that a paragraph was published by *The Times* from its Lobby correspondent on Friday last directly imputing to the members of the Committee in question the conveyance of the information upon which their original paragraph was founded. That being so, it appears to me to be a direct breach of the privileges of this House. I mention this circumstance because it affects very largely the gravity of the recommendations made by this Committee.

TRAWLERS' CERTIFICATES SUSPENSION BILL [Lords].

Order for Second Reading upon Wednesday read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to :—

GOOLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL,

with Amendments.

Amendments to—

LIVERPOOL OVERHEAD RAILWAY BILL [Lords],

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH (CARDIFF) BILL.

[Lords],

GREAT GRIMSBY STREET TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords],

LOWESTOFT WATER AND GAS BILL.

[Lords],

TOTLAND WATER BILL [Lords].

without amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to remove doubts as to the Validity of certain Marriages." [Marriages Validity (No. 2) Bill [Lords].

MARRIAGES VALIDITY (No. 2) BILL
 [Lords].

Read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, and to be printed. [Bill 273.]

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS).

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I think that it was, almost to a day, this time last year when I asked the House to grant the privileges with regard to business which I ask for again in the Resolution which I propose to move. Last year it had the result that we finished our work without difficulty and without friction at a reasonable period of August ; and I think I may hope that the same privileges, granted at the same time of the year, would have a like result now. The House would naturally desire to know what business we hope to get through before August 12th—or before the date of the prorogation. I mention August 12th because it happens to be the last day of a week, and, I may parenthetically say, that it is convenient for other interests and avocations. I will tell the House briefly exactly how Government business stands. I begin with a certain number of Bills which cannot pass if they are opposed and to which, if my information be accurate, no opposition need be feared. In this list are the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill—a Bill introduced the other day by the Chief Secretary, with the approval of the Irish Members ; the Congested Districts Board (Scotland) Bill, the Bodies Corporate Bill, the Law Charges Bill, the University of London Act Amendment Bill—a small measure pressed upon the Government by the Commissioners under the London University Act, the sole object of which is to include Holloway College within the University of London ; the Inebriates Act (1898) Amendment Bill—which is simply to correct an error in drafting ; an Elementary Education Bill, dealing with defective and epileptic children ; and a Bill of which I know nothing, but which has come from the Lords and deals with oysters. Then there are two Bills which I should like to believe were in this category, but of which I confess I have some doubts. One is the Lunacy Bill, which also comes from the Lords, and in regard to which I may be permitted to say that I believe part of it is intended

to remedy an administrative inconvenience. The Government are quite prepared to drop any portions of the measure which prove controversial if they could hope without discussion to get this administrative portion of the Bill. Then there is the Charitable Loans (Ireland) Bill, about which questions have been asked me from time to time by the Irish Members, but which I fear may necessitate an amount of discussion which will render its chance of passing rather faint. Then in the next category of Bills come what I may describe as the two annual Bills—the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill and the Public Works Loans Bill. They have not yet been introduced, and it is not usual to introduce them until the end of the session, but I have no reason to believe that they will lead to more controversy in the course of the present year than they have done on previous occasions. Then I come to certain departmental Bills which I do not believe require any lengthened discussion—the Durham Palatine Court Bill, the Telegraph (Channel Islands) Bill, Electric Lighting Provisional Orders, the Lands Improvement Bill—which I think has passed the Grand Committee, and to which not much objection is taken. The Metropolitan Police (Salaries) Bill is also a small departmental measure. This list of Bills may sound a rather long catalogue, but I think it is felt on all sides that they are not Bills which will occupy any material portion of the time of Parliament. In the next class are Bills of greater importance, and involving greater controversy, which I may call administrative Bills, to distinguish them from the projects of legislation of a somewhat different character. These Bills are the Niger Company Bill, the Naval Works Bill, the Military Works Bill, and the Colonial Loans Bill. They are all important Bills, and some of them, no doubt, will require a certain amount of discussion ; but I should hope that they will pass without any serious difficulty. The House will remember that under the Colonial Loans Bill, power is taken empowering other Bills to be introduced. I think it possible that another Colonial Loans Bill, a daughter Bill, if I may so describe it, may be necessary. Then there is the Khartoum College Bill, which I do not think will take any time. Its only object is to enable the trustees of

the fund contributing to the Khartoum College to invest the money in Egyptian securities, which they cannot do with personal safety under the law as it at present stands. I should add that negotiations are now pending about the conversion of the Turkish Guarantee Loan of 1855. I do not know whether those negotiations will be brought to a satisfactory conclusion before the end of the session. If they are, as I have reason to believe, a Bill will be founded on them, and in the absence of opposition we shall deal with it also. But I recognise that it cannot be carried through without leading to some debate. There remain Bills dealing with general legislation. Of these, the Government propose only to pass those which have reached the Report stage, or those which are on the verge of it, and likely to pass, such as the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Bill. Among those Bills are the Telephones Bill, the Tithe Rent-charge Bill, the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Bill, the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill, and the Board of Education Bill. There are a good many other measures of general legislation which are not so fortunate as to have reached the Report stage or to have made any serious advance through Committee. Such, I am afraid, it will be impossible to deal with in the present year. Some of them I drop with particular regret, like the Money-lending Bill, the Parish Churches (Scotland) Bill, and the Irish Tithe Rent-charge Bill. Of these measures I will only say that I hope they may be introduced at an early period next session and that they may have a better fate than that which we have been able to accord to them in the present year. In addition to these there is the Companies Bill, which I do not think has yet reached us from the Lords, the Undersized Fish Bill, the Metropolitan Streets Act (Amendment) Bill, the Trout Fishing Annual Close Time (Scotland) Bill, the Licensing Exemption (Houses of Parliament) Bill of my right hon. friend near me, the President of the Board of Trade; the Universities (Scotland) Bill, and the Land Tax Commissioners Bill. That, I think, really completes the account I have to give of the legislation which we hope to pass and the legislation which we recognise cannot be passed; and I do not think that if the Bills be attentively

examined they will throw any necessary or undue strain upon the time or the labours of the House. In order to avoid any misunderstanding for the future, I ought to explain that it is, of course, conceivable that some administrative necessity may arise for bringing in some short measure in connection with one or other of the departments of the State. I do not consider myself precluded from that should the exigencies of the public service render it absolutely necessary, but I hope that no such necessity will arise. I do not think I can add anything to this statement, which, if brief, is at all events, I hope, clear and not unsatisfactory in its character. I forgot, however, to add the Resolution brought in dealing with the new judge about which I have spoken. I need only conclude by saying that, while asking the House to give up its cherished privileges as regards the Twelve o'clock rule, I am only adopting an expedient found necessary at the close of every session. The House need not be afraid that the Government will abuse the privileges so granted to them, and I hope we may regard ourselves as being now within a measurable distance of a not ill-earned holiday. I beg to move.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That for the remainder of the session Government business be not interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the sittings of the House, and may be entered upon at any hour though opposed; and that at the conclusion of the Government business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put."—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I think the House will be generally disposed to get over as early as possible the melancholy part of our proceedings, and to bid an affectionate farewell to those Bills which the right hon. Gentleman has told us he is not going to proceed with. I can only say in regard to those which he has condemned to that category, I think some of the Bills are measures of great importance in which the public took a great interest, like the Money-Lending Bill and others which could be named. I think the general public would have been better pleased if one or other of those Bills had been proceeded with and that

the Bill which recently occupied a considerable portion of the attention of the House had been left alone. With that remark I dismiss the melancholy part of the subject. I understand that what the right hon. Gentleman meant with regard to the first list of Bills which he estimates as unopposed is that the prosecuting of those Bills will be subject to the fact of their being unopposed, but that if in the course of things serious opposition is disclosed their fate will be necessarily endangered. I have very few observations to make on the statement of the First Lord. The right hon. Gentleman mentioned one or two administrative Bills. I am afraid that a good deal of time may be spent over them, as for example the Niger Company's Bill and the Naval Works Bill—a measure which was promised at the beginning of the session and which really was part of the elementary and fundamental business of the session. It ought to have been in our hands long ago. The same remark applies to the Military Works Bill. These Bills should have been under our consideration together with the Estimates of the year. Instead of that we are still in the middle of the discussion on the Military Works Bill, and the Naval Works Bill has not yet been presented to the House. I think that is a circumstance which is so remarkable that it ought to be referred to in order to invoke some degree of condemnation on the part of the House, because the sums of money involved are large. The expenditure involved is an expenditure which runs into the ordinary expenditure dealt with in the Estimates, and the House of Commons is placed at a disadvantage when so important a matter is not even before us at the end of July. However, we admit the importance of the Bill, and I can only hope that when it is introduced it will be of such a nature as not to provoke prolonged discussion or serious opposition. I understand that the programme which the right hon Gentleman has put before us is a reasonable one from his point of view; but, of course, it is distinctly understood that it excludes the possibility of the Government taking up any other Bills. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of some possible contingency, some administrative Bills, the necessity of which may become apparent. That we quite understand, but the motion which the right hon. Gentleman has made involves, of course, that the House

will be adjourned as soon as Government-business is concluded each night, and that there will be no "starring" of private Members' Bills, and no taking advantage of the motion to take up some Bill which at present is not within their list. I hope also the Twelve o'clock rule which governs our business will not be transgressed, except when occasion really arises for it. I understood from the right hon. Gentleman that the Twelve o'clock rule was not to be overridden day by day continually. At any rate, I ask the right hon. Gentleman to use the liberty conceded to him in a lenient manner agreeably to the wishes of the House. On those conditions, the exclusion of what I may call the *Uitlanders alien Parliamentary Bills* which have not yet been admitted to the full franchise, and the promise of a lenient use of the powers that are given to him, I do not think there is anything in the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman which is inconsistent with the ordinary practice of the House at this period of the session.

***SIR CHARLES DILKE** (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): The promise which the Leader of the Opposition has asked for with regard to Private Members' Bills not being starred is made the more necessary this year, because last week a sort of half promise was given in another place to push forward in the course of the present session a Bill introduced by Lord Burghclere—the Commons Bill. Had that Bill remained in the form in which it was introduced, it would not have been opposed on this side, but it has been altered, and the Lords' veto inserted, and I am afraid it will meet with severe opposition. It is notorious, too, that there is another Private Member's Bill which is fiercely opposed, and that is the Service Franchise Bill. I can tell the right hon. Gentleman that there will be very fierce opposition if he attempts to pass those Bills with the assistance of the present motion. Some reason ought to be given also for the dropping of the Land Tax Commissioners Bill, a most necessary Bill, because the Land Tax Commissioners appoint the Income Tax Commissioners, and, unless new names are put in, the whole appointments fall into the hands of the county magistrates, and urban interests are not represented in the collection of income-tax. This Bill has always been passed in the first session of a new

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

Parliament, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire when he was Leader of the Opposition pointed out that this was a measure for which the House was responsible, and with which the Government had nothing to do. Last year the Leader of the House told us he could not give the time necessary for passing it, because the Radical Members had seized the opportunity to raise the question of the qualification of magistrates. We did not think that a sufficient reason, but at any rate no such motion is down this year, and that being so we surely ought to have some explanation of the reasons which have induced the Government to drop this most necessary Bill, as to which, too, we ought to have a distinct promise for next session. There is a motion on the Paper for to-night in the name of the hon. Member for Leominster (employment of women overtime in the jam industry), and, in order to allow that motion to be brought on, I intend to move to amend the right hon. Gentleman's motion by providing that it shall take effect "on and after To-morrow." The motion is a statutory one, and relates to one of those matters that for forty days are laid on the Table in order that the House may have an opportunity of expressing its dissent from administrative action. If this Amendment is carried the right hon. Gentleman will have exactly the same time left to him as was granted last year for winding up the business of the session. I would further point out the importance to the House of having this opportunity of discussing this matter. You, Mr. Speaker, in correcting last year a malpractice which had grown up in these matters, stated that the House should be able freely to exercise the privilege which the Statute gives it, and inasmuch as this motion was put down for to-day out of courtesy to the Government, instead of being taken, as it could have been, at the close of the Home Office Debate, I hope the Government will assent to my Amendment.

*SIR JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster) : I hope the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House will accept the Amendment, for there is a great deal of interest felt in this matter. The discussion will not take long, and we hope to be able to bring it on before One o'clock. I think the House has a right to have an opportunity of giving an opinion

upon such an Order as that made by the Home Secretary, as by Statute the Order must lie on the Table of the House of Commons for forty days, so that a Motion disagreeing with the Order may be raised if the House so desire. I trust, therefore, the Leader of the House will afford facilities for this Debate.

Amendment proposed—

"After the word 'That,' to insert the words 'on and after To-morrow.'"—(Sir Charles Dilke.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I entirely agree that nothing should be done materially to interfere with the statutory rights of Parliament. After all, if the House was given by Statute the right to consider certain matters it would be like an evasion of the Statute by a side wind to take the course I propose without any mitigating provision. The best plan to meet the case would, I think, be that I should enter into an engagement with the House that any motion brought forward under statutory authority shall be "starred" by the Government, and shall therefore share the privileges accorded by the motion of the Government. If that be acceptable I shall adopt that course.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN : It occurs to me it might be maintained, if the course suggested is followed, that "starred" motions are in the nature of Government business. This is a Government Order in Council which has to be submitted for the opinion of the House, and I therefore think the right hon. Gentleman will be justified in taking the course he mentions.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE : When is it proposed to take the motion about the overtime of women ? I do not think anything would be lost by taking it To-night.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) : One of the inconveniences of the Government's motion is that it prevents questions being put on the adjournment of the House. These powers have not been used for obstructive purposes in the past, and I would suggest that you are gratuitously limiting the very small amount of power which Parliament now possesses by preventing the discussion of motions of which the statutory forty

days' notice has been given, and by disallowing questions on the motion for adjournment.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent) : It seems to me that the Leader of the Opposition must be a singularly innocent man if he supposes the First Lord is going to make a lenient use of his powers. We have had experience of the way the First Lord uses his powers. The right hon. Gentleman has sketched out enough work to last a whole session.

***MR. SPEAKER** : Order, order ! The hon. Member is not speaking to the Amendment.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) : Will the Leader of the House answer the question of the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : Although technically these motions are not Government business, yet practically they have to be starred if they are to be taken at all after the rule is passed ; therefore, I will propose to "star" my hon. friend's motion and take it To-morrow.

***SIR CHARLES DILKE** : I should have preferred it to be taken to-night, but, of course, we are in the hands of the Government. Under the circumstances I ask leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.) : I simply wish to enforce the appeal of the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean with regard to the Land Tax Commissioners Bill. According to my recollection it was formerly the universal practice to pass the Bill in the first session of a new Parliament, and now we are in the fourth session. The passing of this Bill ought to be no longer delayed.

SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH (Manchester, N.W.) : I quite understand the objection to bringing Private Members' Bills under this motion, but I submit it is very hard indeed that even at this stage of the session opportunity should not be given of discussing Bills to which there is practically no objection on either side. In the case of non-contentious Bills I think it is very little to ask that if it can

be shown that they are really non-contentious, and that they are supported on both sides of the House, they should be proceeded with.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) : Might I ask the right hon. Gentleman to be a little more specific in his statement with regard to the Lunacy Bill—I mean the Lords Lunacy Bill. Do I understand that he expressed an intention to drop it. Will he drop it if some portion of the Bill is dropped ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : If I thought that dropping all the administrative clauses would secure its general acceptance from the House I should be happy to take that course.

MR. BROADHURST : Is there any means of ascertaining that ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I shall take every means in my power.

MR. BROADHURST : I should also like to ask when the Board of Education Bill will be taken.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : Not this week.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : I congratulate the right hon. Gentleman on dropping the Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Bill, which was one of the most iniquitous measures which have ever been brought before this House, and I trust that in the interval between this and next session he will come to see that it would be nothing less than an outrage to reintroduce it. With regard to the Charitable Loans Bill, that is a Bill which I think ought to pass, because the present state of things is nothing less than a scandal. It cannot pass, however, this year, because in its present shape it will inflict greater injury than benefit. I notice that in his statement the right hon. Gentleman said not a word upon the question of Supply. There are only two free days left for discussing Supply, in spite of the fact that three extra days have been voted, and I think we might fairly ask the right hon. Gentleman to inform us now what Votes he proposes to take on the two days at our disposal. I can hardly believe that the Government intend to allow this session to pass without affording the House an opportunity for discussing the Colonial Office Vote, and I shall

Dr. Clark.

listen with confidence to the right hon. Gentleman's statement as to the day on which he will take that Vote this session. I contend that one day is not enough for the discussion of that Vote, and for the Government to give us no opportunity to discuss the present state of South Africa, which would come upon that Vote, is nothing short of an outrage.

MR. E. J. C. MORTON (Devonport) : I also think that as the days are limited it becomes a matter of extreme importance that we should know what Supply is going to be put down. I was given to understand that Vote 8 and Vote 12 of the Navy Estimates would be taken on Friday next, and a number of hon. Members interested in those particular Votes have made arrangements under the belief that these particular Votes would be taken. Now I understand that the Army Votes are put down, and, as I presume, no other Votes. I wish to ask whether it is possible to take Votes 8 and 12 of the Navy Estimates at such time as will permit a discussion upon them.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : We shall begin with the Navy Votes.

MR. E. J. C. MORTON : Might I ask when the Third Reading of the Tithe Rent-charge Bill will be taken ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : Thursday next.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) : I would remind the right hon. Gentleman that the War Office Vote has not been discussed, and I cannot understand why that Vote has been passed by, seeing that it is one of the earliest Votes in the Army Estimates. I think some opportunity ought to be given for its discussion.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) : There is one point which I consider of the greatest importance, and that is the point raised as to the selection of Private Members' Bills. I hope that the right hon. Gentleman will not pick out any of those Bills to be taken this session as against others. I have been told since that the statement which the right hon. Gentleman has made will not preclude his selecting some of them. I believe that such a course would considerably prolong dis-

cussion and be otherwise unsatisfactory. If any Private Members' Bills are to be selected they ought to be mentioned in the statement he has made. I would ask him to add to the list which he has given, however, one important measure, the Shop Assistants' Seats Bill, as I understand an important Amendment has been made in the Lords which we shall have to consider, and therefore I hope the right hon. Gentleman will give us an opportunity of considering it.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) : With regard to the demand of the Government for the time of the House, I might point out that the Naval Works Bill has not yet been introduced, and I should like some information as to what the Government are going to do about it. It is a similar Bill to the Military Works Bill, and I think ought to be introduced before Friday next, when the Works Vote of the Navy Estimates comes on, and not at a time when the Government are put to such straits as to be compelled to ask for further facilities with respect to time.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : That shall be done.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES : There is another important measure which I should like to call attention to, and which I should regret to see the Government give up. That is the Metropolitan Streets Bill. It is a measure of very pressing importance ; the traffic of the metropolis is daily growing to an alarming extent, and it is of great importance that the police should have requisite power to deal with it, and it will be a matter of great regret if that is postponed until next year. The Oysters Bill is in another position. I know enough of these matters to know that every Bill concerning fisheries is a Bill of prohibition and the imposition of penalties, and this is probably one of that character. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will not attempt to pass that this session. I am glad that the Undersized Fish Bill is not to be passed. There is another Bill for the Conversion of the Turkish Loan, 1855. I do not see why a Bill is necessary for the purpose of converting that, but perhaps that will be explained. The right hon. Gentleman also says he may have to ask this House for administrative

measures. Does that mean a Vote of Credit? I sincerely hope not.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If I might interrupt the hon. Gentleman here, I may say I certainly was not thinking of a Vote of Credit; but if such a Vote became necessary I should not regard the Government as being precluded from introducing it.

SIR J. JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street): Can the right hon. Gentleman tell me when the Telephone Bill is likely to be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I shall not take it to-night.

SIR J. JOICEY: Can the right hon. Gentleman give me any idea when he will take it?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot say.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.): The right hon. Gentleman has created some alarm by saying that no further discussion is to be allowed on the War Office Vote. I would remind the right hon. Gentleman that the War Office has made a Report upon itself and has had ample time to act upon that Report, and it seems to me it will be an extraordinary state of things if that Report is not allowed to be discussed. There has been absolutely no discussion on the War Office Vote this session. Then, within the last few days the Secretary of State for War has made a statement of the most alarming character with regard to the results of the Government's policy in the matter of the recruiting of the troops. I hope the right hon. Gentleman does not desire to withhold from the House of Commons at least one opportunity of discussing these two very important aspects of the policy of the War Office—namely, its own Report upon its own procedure, and its success in carrying out its own policy.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I think the right hon. Gentleman has forgotten the Bill to give tenant farmers greater compensation for their improvements. Notice of the introduction of that Bill was given on the first day of the session of 1896, and it has figured in every Queen's Speech since, but we have

Mr. Gibson Bowles.

not seen the Bill yet. The right hon. Gentleman has stated that he intends to proceed with the Lands Improvement Bill. May I suggest that it would be better to give tenant farmers compensation for improvements already made than to extend the provisions of a Bill which purposed to give money to landlords to make further improvements.

MR. COGHILL: The list of measures we are to be asked to pass into law is such a very long one that it seems to me there will be no work left for the remaining two sessions of this Parliament, and some of the Bills mentioned might very well be left over. As far as Supply alone is concerned, there are a number of questions which must inevitably crop up which would fully occupy the time at our disposal this session. I am extremely sorry the English Moneylenders Bill is not to be proceeded with. We were told at the General Election that the period of Irish legislation was over, and that the time of Parliament would be taken up in discussing English and Scotch measures. Instead of that we have had another instance this session of English Bills being put out of the way in order that Bills affecting Ireland may be dealt with. The right hon. Gentleman has told us that, in addition to the Bills which he enumerated, he intends to proceed with the appointment of a new judge, and that in face of a Report of the Bar Committee pointing out the great waste of time under the present system. May I ask whether it is intended to bring forward that resolution at a time when most Members are present, and when there may be a full opportunity of discussing the question, or whether an attempt will be made to smuggle it through in the early hours of the morning?

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): On the last occasion when the right hon. Gentleman made a statement of this character allusion was made to the Factory Bill. That Bill has never yet been introduced. The Home Secretary, when asked to introduce the Bill so that its provisions could be discussed throughout the country during the recess, said he was unable to do so without the consent of his colleagues. I therefore venture to ask the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will give an assurance that that shall be done.

AN HON. MEMBER: I should like to ask whether the Leader of the House can give us any information by which we may judge whether or not the Conversion of Turkish Loans Bill will be opposed.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): I wish to ask a question with regard to two Bills. The first is the Land Tax Commissioners Bill. That Bill ought really to be passed. It is the first time it has ever been postponed, and as it affects an important question of administration, the delay is rather upsetting the arrangements of the Income Tax Commissioners in the country. There is no desire in this part of the House to obstruct, but every wish to assist the passage of the Bill, which cannot possibly take much time. The interests of the towns have been neglected sufficiently by this Government, and they might recognise the necessity of passing this Bill this session. The second measure I desire to refer to is the Service Franchise Bill. The right hon. Gentleman has declined to state that he is not going to press any Private Members' Bills this session. I should like to know whether that reluctance is due to the fact that he has given a pledge with respect to the Service Franchise Bill, because if so, it may alter the whole course of conduct on this side of the House, not only in regard to this Bill, but in regard to other measures.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think I may now answer the various questions which have been put to me from different parts of the House. Perhaps the most important points raised were those mentioned by the hon. Member who has just sat down, by the right hon. Baronet who sits near him, by my hon. friend the Member for North-West Manchester, and others, with regard to Private Members' Bills. I think the practice has been that Private Members' Bills which are either far advanced or not opposed should not necessarily be destroyed by such a motion as that which I am now making. Particular reference has been made by the hon. Member who has just sat down to a Private Member's Bill which is in the hands of my hon. friend the Member for Dulwich. No pledge has been given with regard to the Service Franchise Bill by

the Government to my hon. friend. I am told that this Bill is very far advanced.

***SIR CHARLES DILKE:** It is down for Report.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I quite agree that no Bill which is likely to occupy any large time of the House ought to be dealt with at this period of the session. Perhaps I may point out the happy inconsistency which afflicts some hon. Gentlemen opposite. The hon. Member for West Islington, while taking up what has been said and reproaching me as to Private Members' Bills, said,—“After all, there is one Bill which you must deal with, and that is the Shop Assistants Bill.” It does not seem to have occurred to him that the Shop Assistants Bill is a Private Member's Bill. I hope that that reflection will mitigate the judgment which is passed on this point on the course which we propose to pursue or shall pursue with regard to Private Members' Bills. Then I have been asked as to the Land Tax Commissioners Bill. I was glad to hear the chorus of approval which the mention of that Bill now appears to call forth on the other side of the House. We shall be extremely glad to pass it, and if the speeches which have been delivered are any sample of the opinions which are held on the other side of the House, I see no reason why that Bill should not be taken out of the category of Bills that are condemned, and elevated to the happier list of Bills that may become law in the present session. An hon. Member has asked me about the Tenants' Improvement Bill, and other questions have been asked me about Bills which have not been introduced. As to the latter point, the statement I have made to-day is with regard to Bills which have been introduced. I think that if we were to discuss questions as to Bills which have not been introduced, we should be travelling far out of our proper course. My hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn and another hon. friend of mine asked questions about the conversion of the Turkish Loan. What I said to the House on that subject was that negotiations were pending, that those negotiations had not arrived at any conclusion, that if they did arrive at any conclusion, and it was desirable to deal with them, we should be glad to do so if a Bill on that subject was likely to pass

without controversy. I cannot now put it differently from that. The negotiations have not been completed, and no Bill has yet been drawn up on the subject. Another hon. Member has asked about the Resolution as to the appointment of a new judge. I do not know whether I have correctly interpreted his remarks as indicating that such a Resolution will raise much controversy. I should hope that it would not. I believe that sufficient grounds can be adduced in the interests of suitors for the appointment of a new judge which are of such an overwhelming character that the House will readily agree to the motion. I can promise my hon. friend that in any case the motion shall not be brought on after twelve o'clock at night. The hon. Member for Berwickshire asked whether it would be possible not to pass, but for my right hon. friend the Home Secretary to introduce a Bill for discussion in the country dealing with factories. I will consult my right hon. friend the Home Secretary as to whether such a course would be desirable; but I am not sure that anything would be gained by bringing in such a Bill without any chance of passing it into law during the session. I think that meets all the points raised.

MR. DILLON: What about the Colonial Office Vote?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Member for East Mayo and other hon. Members have asked me questions as to Supply. A statement of the kind I am now making usually, I think, deals with the legislative work of the session, but I make no complaint, I need not say, with regard to the questions which have been put to me. The hon. Member asks me, there only being a few days left for Supply, that we should devote one of those days as suggested, and whether we contemplate the possibility of Parliament being prorogued without a discussion on colonial policy. I can assure the hon. Gentleman that we feel that it is absolutely necessary that there should be an adequate discussion on the Colonial Vote before the House adjourns. We feel that, in the present condition of South African affairs, it would not be treating the House of Commons fairly or rightly if they did not have an opportunity of hearing our views and of expressing their own in return. Whether the Debate which I have in my

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

mind can best take place on the Colonial Vote or not is a matter which is open to controversy. I will consider the question, but, whatever the decision may be, I promise the hon. Gentleman and the House that they shall have an opportunity of fully discussing the colonial policy before we separate for the holidays. A question has been asked by my right hon. friend behind me about the War Office Vote. I indicated at Question time that the Volunteer Vote, which stands first on the Paper, should be taken first, but, considering that the amount of time we can give to the War Office Vote next Friday must necessarily be limited, I think it would be more in accordance with precedent and more convenient that I should follow the views expressed by my right hon. friend the Member for West Belfast, and put the Vote for the salary of the Secretary of State first among the War Office Votes. I think that is a complete answer to all the questions. To-morrow we shall continue the Food and Drugs Bill. I propose to take the Second Reading of the Niger Company's Bill on Wednesday, and the Third Reading of the Tithe Rent-Charge Bill on Thursday.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid): The right hon. Gentleman when he moved his motion did not mention a word about the special privilege of the House in respect of the half-past five o'clock rule on Wednesdays, in fact he did not say anything at all about Wednesdays. On previous occasions Wednesday has been excepted. With regard to Wednesdays it is very important to know whether we can rely upon having one evening at least free so that we can fulfil our engagements. When the rule was suspended towards the close of the session last year I think it was found that the House never sat later than half-past five on Wednesdays, and I think, therefore, it would be well to exclude Wednesday from this rule. In order that there shall be no uncertainty in this matter I beg to move to insert after the word "session" the words "except on Wednesdays."

MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): I beg leave to second this Amendment, and in so doing I desire to impress upon the Government the necessity of taking the Naval Works Bills as soon as

possible, so that this measure may be properly discussed by the whole House.

Amendment proposed—

"After the word 'session,' to insert the words 'except on Wednesdays.' " — (*Mr. Samuel Evans.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): I have not spoken to my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury on this subject, but I apprehend that his intention is to include Wednesday in the operation of this rule. I apprehend that on the earlier Wednesdays there is no intention of pressing the sitting to the inconvenience of hon. members, but certainly towards the end of the session it may be necessary to prolong our sittings beyond half-past five on Wednesdays. I may say that this rule worked well last year.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: If that is the decision of the Government I will not put the House to the trouble of a Division, and I will ask permission to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

SIR J. BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): I think it is only reasonable that we should have an undertaking that nothing but the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill shall be taken to-night.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I can assure the hon. Member that if the Bill is completed to-night nothing else will be taken.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): We have had a very satisfactory statement that the War Office Vote will receive full discussion, but in reference to the Colonial Vote it is not quite certain whether it will take place in Committee of Supply or not. There are remaining at this moment only two clear days for Supply, and I wish to get a promise that the Colonial Office Vote will not be taken on either of the subsequent two days, because to limit the discussion of such an

important question as the Colonial Office Vote, which might come on at a very late hour of the evening, would be grossly unfair, and it would be impossible to adequately discuss the Vote under such circumstances. If we are to have this Vote fully discussed it is obvious that we must take it on Friday week. There is only one other free day, and that is Friday week, and it would simplify matters very much if the Government would take the Vote on that day. With regard to Supply generally, I think the attention of the House ought to be called to the Paper which we received this morning. We have already got to pass seventy-seven Votes. It is true that as regards one or two of the Votes we have already had a few hours' debate upon them, but there are a number of very important Votes which have not yet been passed, and which it is reasonable to assume that some hon. Members desire to discuss. There is the Foreign and Colonial Service Vote, and the Votes for the Stationery Office, House of Lords, House of Commons, the Treasury, the Local Government Board, the Home Office, the Foreign Office, and the Colonial Office. These are only a few out of the seventy-seven Votes which we have to pass in the two clear days before us. With regard to Private Members' Bills I think we should have some declaration at once as to what the intention of the Government is. It is quite reasonable to suppose that the Government will be assisted by the Opposition in passing some of these measures through the House. I think the measures mentioned by the First Lord of the Treasury constitute the most modest programme from a non-contentious point of view that we have yet had. We may be able to assist in passing this programme if the Government will declare what Private Bills they intend to "star," if they intend to "star" any. With regard to late sittings I think we ought to have a promise that unless there is some very substantial reason the House shall not sit after one o'clock. It is not fair to keep Members sitting here without knowing how long they are going to be kept, and it is not right for important legislation to come on before a small House.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I only desire to support what my hon. friend has said in regard to Private Bills. There is the Service Franchise Bill, to which

we are going to offer the greatest possible amount of opposition. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House gave us no pledge in reference to that question, and we wish to know whether that Bill is to be brought forward. There is also the Metropolitan Streets Bill. I should like to know whether both

these Bills have been definitely abandoned.

Question put.

The House divided : — Ayes, 286 ; Noes, 93. (Division List, No. 272.)

AYES.

Aird, John	Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Greene, W. R. - (Cambs.)
Allsopp, Hon. George	Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Gretton, John
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Colomb, Sir John C. Ready	Greville, Hon. Ronald
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Colston, Charles E. H. Athole	Gull, Sir Cameron
Arnold, Alfred	Compton, Lord Alwyne	Gunter, Colonel
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)	Haldane, Richard Burdon
Arrol, Sir William	Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.	Hall, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Asher, Alexander	Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Cranborne, Viscount	Hanson, Sir Reginald
Bagot, Capt Josceline FitzRoy	Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Hardy, Laurence
Bailey, James (Walworth)	Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)	Hare, Thomas Leigh
Baird, John George Alexander	Cruddas, William Donaldson	Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo-
Balcarres, Lord	Curzon, Viscount	Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manc'r)	Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh	Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Dalkeith, Earl of	Helder, Augustus
Banbury, Frederick George	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. S. (Hunts.)	Dewar, Arthur	Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Bartley, George C. T.	Dickson-Poynier, Sir John P.	Hobhouse, Henry
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-	Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Hornby, Sir William Henry
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon	Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Doughty, George	Houston, R. P.
Beckett, Ernest William	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Howard, Joseph
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	Howell, William Tudor
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Drage, Geoffrey	Hozier, Hon. J. Henry Cecil
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Duckworth, James	Hudson, George Bickersteth
Beresford, Lord Charles	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Bethell, Commander	Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.	Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas	Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Biddulph, Michael	Everhard, Sydney	Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.-
Bill, Charles	Fardell, Sir T. George	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.	Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Bond, Edward	Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)	Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Mncr.)	Keimp, George
Boulnois, Edmund	Finch, George H.	Kenyon, James
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Kimber, Henry
Brassey, Albert	Fisher, William Hayes	King, Sir Henry Seymour
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Fison, Frederick William	Kinloch, Sir John George S.
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson	FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-	Kitson, Sir James
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James	Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond	Lafone, Alfred
Bullard, Sir Harry	FitzWygram, General Sir F.	Laurie, Lieut. General
Burt, Thomas	Flannery, Sir Fortescue	Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Butcher, John George	Flower, Ernest	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Buxton, Sydney Charles	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)	Lecky, Rt. Hn. William E. H.
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J.A. (Glasgow)	Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)	Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry	Leighton, Stanley
Carlile, William Walter	Fry, Lewis	Leng, Sir John
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-	Galloway, William Johnson	Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward	Garfit, William	Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'ns'a
Causton, Richard Knight	Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)	Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Giles, Charles Tyrrell	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.	Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Lorne, Marquess of
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Chamberlain, J. Aust'n (Worc'r)	Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)	Lucas-Shadwell, William
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Charrington, Spencer	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Macdona, John Cumming
Chelsea, Viscount	Graham, Henry Robert	MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)	Maclean, James Mackenzie
Coddington, Sir William		Macclure, Sir John Willians.

Captain Norton.

M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 Malcolm, Ian
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, C. J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Palmer, George W. (Reading)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Pender, Sir James
 Percy, Earl
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)

Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Saunderson, Rt. Hon. Col. E.J.
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr.)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbys.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Soamea, Arthur Wellesley
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)

Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Ure, Alexander
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H.
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wrightson, Thomas
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
 Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bainbridge, Emerson
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Bill-on, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Carville, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Coghil, Douglas Harry
 Colville, John
 Croubie, John William
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Dunn, Sir William
 Emuott, Alfred
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Goldard, Daniel Ford
 Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John

Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Merley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lough, Thomas
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. (Kent)
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'ns C.)
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 M'Ghee, Richard
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maplin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)

Perks, Robert William
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Runciman, Walter
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Phillip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Strathey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath).
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Wallace, Robert
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woods, Samuel
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Mr. Dalziel and Captain
 Norton.

Ordered, That for the remainder of the session Government business be not interrupted under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the sittings of the House, and may be entered upon at any hour, though opposed; and that at the conclusion of Government business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put.

PUBLIC WORKS (LOANS).

Bill to grant money for the purpose of certain local loans, and for other purposes relating to loans out of the Local Loans Fund, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.

PUBLIC WORKS (LOANS) BILL.

"To grant money for the purpose of certain local loans, and for other purposes relating to loans out of the Local Loans Fund"; presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 271.]

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Order for consideration of the Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), be now considered."

*MR. STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): I beg to move, Sir, that the consideration of the Bill be deferred for three months on the ground that it does not sufficiently guard the interests of the consumer and the producer, and only to a slight extent prevents dishonest trading. This Bill was sent to a Grand Committee in the hope that it might be improved. I admit it was slightly improved in two respects, but those two improvements were inserted against the wish of the President of the Board of Agriculture, and were carried against the Government. One was the question of the inspection of margarine factories, which was an important matter though small when compared with the many blots on the Bill. The Government never gave an adequate reason why they were so much in love with the idea that margarine should be coloured like butter. I cannot find that they are supported in their objection to

the prohibition of colouring margarine to resemble butter by any society or association whatever. Let me take first of all the traders, both wholesale and retail. Certainly their organ, the *Grocer*, has condemned the sanctioning of margarine to be coloured. In a leader on the 4th of March on the subject it says:

"The Bill gives no assistance in the way of rendering the two articles distinct. It simply forbids and penalises. It will worry honest traders by more inspection and prosecution, while the real rogues will laugh at the law."

The Bill would do little but worry the honest trader. In many respects also it would have a bad effect upon the consumer, who will have margarine foisted upon him as butter when coloured to look like butter. It is very remarkable to find that the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, which represents a great community, where five million pounds' worth of dairy produce are distributed every year, have, in a report on the subject, condemned the colouring of margarine to represent butter. Then, again, you have the wholesale traders objecting to it, as well as the retail dealers, and the Manchester and Salford District Grocers' Association. Honest traders desire that there should be a means by which the fraudulent sale of margarine coloured to imitate butter should be put down. I desire to secure the reconsideration of this Bill in the interest of the consumer. No doubt the President of the Board of Agriculture may get up and say that consumers who buy margarine coloured like butter will not be taken in, and that they will not pay a higher price for it than if it were not coloured to look like butter. On the other hand, I draw attention to the fact that my friend the hon. Member for Battersea, one of the most respected and representative of the Labour Members in the House, voted in favour of the Amendment for prohibiting the colouring of margarine, and he spoke strongly more than once on the subject. Again, I was supported in the Division in the Grand Committee on this subject by the hon. Member for Morpeth, than whom no one is more respected as a representative of the working classes, and whose opinion will carry greater weight than any other man on questions of this sort as affecting working men. I am indebted also to the hon. Member for Chester, who showed the attitude taken on the question by the organised associations of work-

ing men, I mean the trades unions. No fewer than 288,099 members of these trade unions, including miners, masons, shipwrights, compositors, Lancashire weavers, and railway servants, expressed the opinion that it would be a fraud on the consumer to allow margarine to be coloured to represent butter. I have said enough from the traders' and consumers' point of view to show that there are many blots on the Bill. I need hardly say that if the consumers and the traders had not objected to the Bill I would not have attempted to move its postponement with the object of allowing the Government to bring in an improved Bill. There is every reason to believe that if this were postponed the Government would bring in a better next year; for this is the third Bill, and every succeeding one has been an improvement on its predecessor. I can assure the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill that in the country the agricultural classes are to a great extent agreed in saying that they would rather not have this half-hearted Bill; they say it is worse than nothing, and I have resolutions from farmers' clubs stating that the Bill is not of any use at all. The opinion of the farmers in an agricultural county like that which I represent should have some weight with the Government compared with the half-hearted support of the Central Chamber of Agriculture. Why is it that the sale of margarine under false pretences is supported? Is it that the Government think that it could not be sold if it were not coloured, and that no one would buy this article unless their eyes were deceived when eating it? I venture to think that that argument is wrong. The only people who wish that the margarine should be coloured are the margarine manufacturers, who get larger prices for their margarine when it is coloured than its real worth. I agree that margarine is a perfectly wholesome food, but that is not the point. The point is, why should not the working classes be able to buy margarine at the lower prices when it is not coloured? The working classes buy as tenpenny butter what has been purchased by the retailer as margarine at 3d. or 4d. per lb. It is said that the prohibition of colouring would decrease the consumption of margarine, but in Denmark, where no margarine can be coloured, the consumption has not decreased at all, but has rather increased, and amounts now to

12 lbs. per head. In Australia, also, where colouring margarine is prohibited, the margarine trade has largely increased since the prohibition of colouring. I am perfectly ready to see the sale of margarine increased in this country so long as it is sold for what it is and not for what it is not. There is no foundation for the assertion wildly made by the margarine manufacturers and those directly interested in the margarine trade that the trade would be killed if colouring is prohibited. It is absolute nonsense to talk in that way. I have dealt with the question from the consumer's and to a slight extent from the producer's point of view, but I wish to emphasise how the honest trader will be prejudiced by the operation of the Bill. It is a very serious matter indeed for him, because he will be responsible for the acts of his servants. A man might have a large number of shops, and a single servant who wanted to do him a bad turn out of spite or in revenge for some fancied grievance might purposely sell margarine as butter without difficulty, owing to it being coloured to imitate butter. And if that happened three times then the unfortunate, innocent man would be liable to imprisonment. Again, those charged under the Bill ought to have the benefit of trial by jury; but unfortunately the Government refused to permit that in Grand Committee. In conclusion I hold that in this Bill the interests of the consumer have been neglected, and the interests of the traders prejudiced in a most objectionable way for no useful purpose; and it is desirable, therefore, that it should be considered at a later date in order to allow the Government to introduce a better Bill. I beg to move that the Bill be considered this day three months.

MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): I beg to second the motion.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(Mr. Strachey.)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): The form in which the hon. Member has submitted his motion to the

House is, I imagine, forced upon him as a matter of Parliamentary practice, and I suppose he had no other alternative to moving the rejection of the Bill. In saying a few words on the subject, however, I desire to dissociate myself from any wish, at this stage, to arrest the progress of the Bill. As regards the particular question of colouring margarine so as to imitate butter, I am at a loss to understand how the Government have taken up the ground they have done; for if there is one subject which unites all the agricultural community it is this one. We have heard from the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down that this proposal was influentially supported in the Grand Committee. We have no authentic record of the proceedings of the Grand Committee. But I understand, from what the hon. Gentleman has told us, that certain hon. Members representing very important sections of the working classes supported this proposal in the Grand Committee. As to the colouring of one article to look like another, we are asked why persons should be denied the liberty of making the article they desire to sell as attractive as possible. Well, nobody is allowed to gild a shilling to pass it off as a sovereign, and I fail to see why anyone should be allowed to so disguise one article of food as to induce persons to mistake it for another. I said just now that the agricultural community was perfectly solid on this subject. I have been for a great many years associated with agricultural bodies, and it is very seldom they come solidly in a line on a subject. My right hon. friend was, in my judgment, wasting his time the other day when, through his natural courtesy, which he extends to all who approach him, he received a deputation representing the Central Chamber of Agriculture upon another subject. The chairman refused to introduce it; the vice-chairman took a similar course, and I for one, who have been for many years connected with the Chamber, and many others similarly circumstanced, would have nothing whatever to do with it. My right hon. friend was called upon to devote a very considerable portion of valuable time in hearing the views of a section of the Chamber on the subject brought before them, though there was considerable difference of opinion thereupon. But this is a question on which the Central Chamber of Agri-

culture practically feels as one man. As a matter of fact there is absolute unanimity amongst the agricultural community throughout the length and breadth of the land upon this subject, and supported as the agricultural community on this occasion is by representatives of the working class communities, I think we have the right to urge our views very strongly on the Government. The Government may say that it would be dangerous to their Bill to adopt the course suggested to them. I know that a great many hold the view that the hon. Gentleman has just expressed, that so far as the agricultural interest is concerned they had better be without a Bill at all than have a Bill which omits the most important provision of all. I will not go the length of saying that this Bill may not have some useful provisions, but the most widespread disappointment has been created throughout the country amongst representatives of all sections of the agricultural interest by the omission of a provision preventing the colouring of margarine so as to imitate another article.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): The right hon. Gentleman seems to approve the method adopted by my hon. friend the Member for South Somerset in bringing forward his motion in this particular way. I certainly do not agree with that method at all, because the hon. Gentleman will have plenty of opportunities as the Bill goes on of bringing forward his pet fad—for really that is what he is contending for—that the prohibition of the colouring of margarines should be enforced. That is the be-all and end-all of his argument. But he has gone out of his way to suggest that the conduct of the Bill upstairs has not been such as to command itself to the favourable consideration of the House, and he has suggested that the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture, in charge of the Bill, really made no such thing as a concession. I really think that is unfair on the face of it. I paid particular attention to the proceedings upstairs, and the right hon. Gentleman made every concession he possibly could—as to which I am not speaking merely my own opinion, but that of many on this side of the House, who feel that the right hon. Gentleman conducted the Bill in an admirable manner, and made every concession he possibly could. The right hon. Gentle-

Mr. James Louther.

man said at the outset that he was quite prepared to accept any Amendment that would strengthen the Bill, and therefore I think my hon. friend has taken an extraordinary course.

*MR. STRACHEY: I am sure my hon. friend does not wish to misrepresent me. I did not say that the right hon. Gentleman made no concessions, but that the two most important Amendments put in the Bill were resisted, showing that the Government did nothing to assist in carrying them.

MR. KEARLEY: I do not think that point is worth raising. It was thoroughly well-known to all of us that the Government had an open mind on the question, and they loyally accepted the Amendments which were carried in Select Committee. The hon. Gentleman could have objected there, but instead of that he satisfies himself by moving what practically amounts to the rejection of the Bill. That is why I disagree with him, and object to the course he has now taken. The Bill itself will go a long way towards repressing the frauds of which my hon. friend complains. The Government, acting upon the recommendation of the Select Committee, have determined to prohibit these margarine mixtures, which are at the root of the question; and they have taken powers under this Bill to make local authorities enforce the Statute as it exists at present. It was proved before the Select Committee that the main cause, almost, of all this licence to adulterate was because the local authorities did not act. The Government have taken very strong steps to see that the local authorities in the future enforce the Act. They have also taken steps for the inspection of goods at the port of entry, and by Order in Council can prohibit the importation of any goods which are not as they should be. They have also, acting again on the recommendation of the Select Committee, made provision for increasing penalties; and in the case of those persistent and fraudulent men who, in spite of ordinary fines, go on continuing this iniquitous system of imposing adulterated articles on the public, they have taken power to imprison. That will go a long way towards stamping out these frauds. My hon. friend says there are two classes of objectors—one the traders, who object because they are

going to be subject to imprisonment. But nobody is going to be subject to imprisonment unless he is guilty of fraud; and because men who carry on dishonest practices are to be subject to imprisonment, are we to throw out the Bill? It is monstrous. Having taken considerable interest in the Bill, I think the Government have behaved well in the matter, and I intend, so far as I can, throughout these proceedings to give them my most consistent support.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): I must say that I listened with astonishment to the hon. Member, claiming as he does to represent the agricultural interest, when he asked the House to reject the Bill because it does not contain a prohibition of colouring. The abuses which have crept into the sale of food and drugs are largely owing to the fact that in some parts of the country the law is not administered at all, and in other parts only with laxity. But the change we have made in that direction, as the hon. Member for Devonport has indicated, has been to strengthen the powers possessed by the central department; and I venture to suggest, speaking with full knowledge of the responsibility which I hold in this matter, that if the House sees fit to pass this Bill in its present form, and to give us the increased powers which we ask for, we shall be able, in no very long period of time, to deal successfully with the greater part of the offences. The main part of the hon. Gentleman's speech was devoted to the question of colouring. I do not think it is necessary for me to take up the time of the House more than to say that I adhere absolutely to the views I expressed on the Second Reading and upstairs, and I shall be prepared, when the time comes, to justify my view—viz., that it would be impolitic and unjust to introduce a prohibition of colouring in relation to one article of food, while leaving all the others untouched. But I will go further, and say that, notwithstanding the evidence the hon. Gentleman produced, I believe that if prohibition were made the law of the land in this country, it would do little good in reducing the competition between margarine and butter, while it would interfere materially with the production of an article of food which is wholesome and ought to be within the

reach of those who desire to consume it. The colouring of margarine has nothing to do with price. The colouring is the same whether the margarine be cheap or expensive. The hon. Gentleman declared that the Amendment, if carried, would not interfere with this article of food, but, on the contrary, increase the production of a cheap article. That would not be the effect, either on the price or on the quantity, of the prohibition of colouring. The only effect would be materially to interfere with the production of a very valuable article of food which ought not to be interfered with unless it was injurious to health. I do not think it is necessary to give more reasons at present why the House should now proceed to the further consideration of the Bill, which has received most careful consideration at the hands of a very largely attended Standing Committee, and is now quite ripe for the further consideration of the House.

*SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I think it would both reduce and simplify the discussion on these clauses if for a short time we considered the very important principle underlying this Amendment. The hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Thanet, while they agree in scarcely anything else, quite agree in letting us see what the intentions of this Bill are. The hon. Member for South Somerset said it would do no good to the agricultural interest, while the strong assertion of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Thanet was that upon this Bill the agricultural interest was solid and spoke with one voice. I observe that the right hon. Gentleman was present at a meeting of the Central Association of Chambers of Agriculture held since this Bill passed through the Grand Committee. A report was made to that meeting in strong terms in favour of the prohibition of the colouring of margarine, and also in favour of the limitation of the mixture of butter fat with margarine to 10 per cent. It is true that to a certain extent there was a chorus of approval of those recommendations, but there was one intelligent Scotsman at that meeting, and from an unusual lapse of memory the right hon. Gentleman seems to have entirely forgotten what Mr. Buchanan

said. What that gentleman said was that

"they would never get the prohibition of the colouring of margarine through Parliament unless they could prohibit the colouring of all dairy products. It seemed to him that the colouring of dairy produce was a deception just in the same way that the colouring of margarine was a deception. Surely when they put colouring into white butter to imitate good butter it was to make the public believe that it was a much richer butter than it really was. Why should there not be an all-round prohibition of colouring?"

MR. JAMES LOWTHER: Did he get a seconder?

SIR JOHN LENG: He did not make a motion, so that no seconder was required, but he spoke words of truth and sense which did not appear to have been very acceptable to those who heard them. The right hon. Gentleman will see that in my objection to the limitation of the colouring of this particular article I am simply following the example of a member of the Chamber of Agriculture on that occasion. I am opposed to this Bill on diametrically opposite grounds to those which have been advanced. I oppose it because it betrays an almost insane hostility to an innocent, wholesome and nutritious article of food, and further, because I regard it as the child of a delusion of the agriculturists as to how they are to be benefited—how makers of one kind of agricultural produce may be advantaged at the expense of makers and dealers in another. The right hon. Gentleman has shown that the genesis of this Bill is from a Protectionist point of view. I sat upon the Adulteration of Foods Committee, and also took part in the discussions of the Standing Committee—and that is my reason for venturing to trespass on the attention of the House at this time—and I saw there that the one thing upon which the representatives of the agricultural and butter interests as distinguished from the margarine interests were united was in this endeavour, if possible, to proscribe margarine as an article of food, to make it unsaleable, either by compelling it to be sold entirely uncoloured or to be discoloured, and to surround the sale of it in every form and way with such pains and penalties that the ordinary dealer would be deterred from dealing in it. What did we witness last session and the session before? We had a large number of petitions addressed to

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this House from chambers of agriculture, agricultural associations, and other people, all of the usual machine-made character, all in the same form, and really originating in the same quarter. To show that this mistaken idea of the agricultural interest is at the bottom of this anti-margarine Bill—for that is what the Bill is—the petition stated:—

"We earnestly pray your honourable House, and especially those Members of it who represent agricultural constituencies, without distinction of Party, to take immediate steps to prevent the artificial colouring, and to prevent the mixing of margarine and butter, and to prevent the importation of adulterated butter."

In the whole of the petitions which have been presented, no petitioner has ever ventured to say, or to make the allegation, that margarine is injurious to health, that it has caused disease, or that its use has resulted in any ailment or epidemic. The agitation to which I have referred culminated finally in this Bill which has been forced upon the Government. The proper department to have introduced the measure is the Local Government Board, the able Secretary of which presided over the Select Committee. At one time the President of the Local Government Board was urged to introduce this Bill, but he was wise and would not touch it, notwithstanding all the entreaties and remonstrances that were addressed to him. The Bill has at length been introduced by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture, but no sooner was it introduced than it could be seen that it was a great disappointment to those who had pressed for it. It did not propose to accomplish what they desired, it did not propose that margarine should be uncoloured like lard, or made blue or pink, or any other colour offensive to the eye. Attempts were made in the Standing Committee to prohibit the colouring, but the President of the Board of Agriculture resisted those attempts; and I hope he will steadily resist them to the last, and in so doing he will have the support of many Members on both sides of the House. He recognised that a large branch of a perfectly legitimate trade was endangered. What is the contention of the opponents of margarine? It is not that it is unwholesome or innutritious; it is not that it is distasteful or unpleasant in any way. The great complaint is that it is too much like butter, that it cannot be

distinguished from butter, and that good margarine is far better than ill-made butter, and, worst of all, the great offence of margarine is that it is too cheap.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is the same price as butter.

ANOTHER HON. MEMBER: It is sold for butter.

*SIR JOHN LENG: I am not blinking any fact. I know that the assertion is that it is sold by the retailers of butter, and that purchasers are defrauded. That is the contention of the opponents, and no doubt we shall have it reiterated tonight. I will meet those objections. First of all, as to margarine as an article of food. I do not wish it to be taken on my word that it is a wholesome thing. I have sought in vain in the "Encyclopædia Britannica" for any reference to the article, but in another Encyclopædia, the fairness and impartiality of which has never been doubted—Chambers's Encyclopædia, the 1888 edition—margarine is spoken of under the name it was then known by, viz.,—butterine. That work speaks of it thus:—

"Butterine is a substance which when well made cannot be distinguished from good butter except by chemical analysis. It is now sold as margarine, and may be regarded as a valuable adjunct to the food of the labouring classes. It is made with great care and skill from the finest ox-fat, which is passed through an elaborate and highly scientific process of purification. It is then mixed with a varying proportion of real butter, and flavoured by washing with milk, and finally marketed in large quantities in a beautiful uniform condition."

Then in the Select Committee we found that great regard was paid to the opinion of public analysts. Let me quote one or two sentences from one of these. Mr. Stokes, public analyst to Paddington, writing, says, margarines

"are well-made substitutes for butter, from which they cannot be distinguished except by analysis. So far as nutritive value goes they are in my opinion as digestible and as nutritious as butter. They do not contain so much water as some of the low-grade samples of butter. As for flavour and palatability, they are vastly to be preferred to some inferior samples of butter sold at much higher prices. Sold as margarine they would by their cheapness and agreeableness and uniformity and quality be a boon to the community."

I could add several other testimonies of the same character. As to the allegation

of fraud, I am not a defender of fraud or of fraudulent dealing. I wish everything to be sold for what it is. But I assert, and I think there can be no doubt about it, that the Margarine Act of 1887 contains very stringent provisions, all for the protection of the consumer, and that it is a very special and peculiar legislation which would go beyond that. According to the Act of 1887 the word "margarine" is to mean "all substances, whether compounds or otherwise, prepared in imitation of butter, and whether mixed with butter or not, and no such substance shall be lawfully sold, except under the name of margarine." That is, if you put the smallest percentage of margarine into butter you must call the whole of it margarine. This is not applied to any other mixture whatever, but simply to margarine. Then, all packages containing margarine have to be branded with the word. When it is exposed for sale it must be labelled in capital letters one and a half inches square. This is in the existing Act. When sold it is to be delivered in a paper wrapper; the wrapper must have "margarine" printed on it in capital letters a quarter of an inch square. So that according to the present law margarine cannot be sold or exhibited for sale without full and ample notice of the fact that it is margarine. Then, manufacturers of margarine have to be registered; inspectors are empowered to take samples, and fines may be imposed not exceeding £20 for the first offence, £50 for the second offence, and £100 for the third. We say that the Act of 1887 is quite strong enough, that its penalties are heavy enough, and that it would be found quite sufficient for dealing with these matters if duly enforced. I do not object at all to the clause in the proposed Bill for securing its more active and uniform enforcement. But you have to take care of this fact. Complaint has been made of the unwillingness of the magistrates to convict, or to inflict the heavy fines which can be inflicted under the present Act. What is that but a proof that the magistrates doubt the wisdom of making a distinction between statutory offences and what are not really moral crimes? The sense of justice revolts against making unreal crimes, and it would rebel even more against the heavy penalties which are here proposed, and the still heavier penalties which some desire to have superimposed, in the Bill now before the House. I have here one

page of the *British Food Journal* for the month of June, showing that when prosecutions are instituted there is no difficulty in clear cases in obtaining convictions and securing heavy penalties. All that is wanted is to go on putting the existing Act into operation. There can be no doubt that with repeated prosecutions the cause of the prosecutions would cease to exist. I have spoken of the genesis of this Bill as arising from a delusion in the minds of the agriculturists. They think that margarine is the great enemy from which they suffer in the butter trade. I will only detain the House one or two minutes in showing that that is an utter delusion. The fact is that the imports of foreign margarine for some years past have steadily decreased. On the other hand, the imports of foreign and colonial butter have more than doubled in quantity and nearly doubled in value since the Margarine Act was passed. Take first the figures with regard to butter. The imports of foreign butter in the year 1887, the year the Margarine Act was passed, were in quantity 1,513,134 cwts., and the value was £8,010,374. The intervening years show a steady growth in the imports and in the value from year to year, until last year, 1898, the quantity went up to 3,209,092 cwts.—more than double—while the value increased to £15,960,571, nearly double the amount in 1887. The Board of Trade Returns confirm these figures, and show that from Denmark and Holland more especially there has been a very large increase. The right hon. Gentleman referred to the fact that margarine had been specially dealt with in Denmark. The reason why is simple. The Danish farmers and producers, and the Danish Government which protects them, have first of all established a very high standard of excellence for their butter, and they have been, and are, naturally most anxious, having got so large and strong a hold on the British market, to maintain it, and therefore they are justified under the circumstances in excluding any danger of the idea spreading that Danish butter is mixed with margarine. If we were Danish farmers I think we should take the same course. But not only have the farmers in Denmark and France and other countries largely increased their exports, but our own colonies have done the same. The Board of Trade Returns for 1898 show

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that there has been a wonderful increase in the exportation from Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. I met a Government official from New Zealand the other day, and he told me they were only beginning to send butter, and that they would send it in larger and larger quantities. The last reports from Canada are to precisely the same effect. Why is this? Because the farmers abroad, by their intelligence and education, by their system of co-operation, by adopting the factory system, have established a high standard of excellence, which they maintain. And not only that, they do not send their butter as our farmers send it to markets in dribblets of a few pounds at a time; they send it in cwts. and tons, and if you go to a large wholesale dealer he will tell you that he can rely on getting from the 1st of January to the 31st of December butter in such large quantities as he needs for his wholesale or retail business, and butter against which there will be no complaint. I have shown that so far as butter is concerned, the imports have been steadily increasing. The facts with regard to margarine are, curiously enough, just in the other direction. So far as foreign margarine is concerned there has been a steady diminution. In 1887 there were 1,276,140 cwts. imported, while last year the amount had decreased to 899,875 cwts. The value in the same period had gone down from £3,880,327 to £2,383,774. So that some of the opponents of margarine are frightening themselves over what is really slowly but steadily disappearing from the market, so far as foreign margarine is concerned. But there is a qualification upon this. While the importation of foreign margarine has been diminishing, the home manufacture has been to an almost equivalent extent increasing, thus forming a new, important and valuable branch of home trade and manufacture against which this Bill is directed. It is generally supposed that foreign manufacturers alone are affected. Some of these large home manufacturers, who did not wish to exaggerate a single figure, have told me after careful and cautious estimate that they are making conjointly 600 tons a week, or 30,000 tons per annum. At £40 per ton that means a manufacture of £1,200,000 a year. They further said that the capital invested in this trade amounted to no less than £1,500,000. That is not an imaginary trade. I heard

hon. Members for Ireland cheering some statements adverse to margarine. I am somewhat doubtful whether they know the extent to which the manufacture exists in their own country. There are large manufactories of margarine at Clarina, County Limerick; Clonmel, Limerick, and also in the neighbourhood of Dublin. Then, in our own country, there are such manufactories as those at Birkenhead and Liverpool, and we have a considerable number in Scotland—at Dunraggitt, Kilmarnock, Cathcart, Glasgow, Craigmillar, Mauchline (Ayrshire), and Leith (Midlothian). Thus it will be seen that this is a large and important branch of trade, and to that extent the more these agriculturists go against margarine the more they are going against their own interests. Home-made margarine is taking the place of foreign margarine with advantage to British agriculturists. It has been also found that this has already enhanced the price of cattle £1 per head, and it has also increased the demand for milk. Even the dairy farmers benefit by the establishment of well-appointed margarine factories both in Great Britain and Ireland, as they pay the farmers high prices for the milk required in the manufacture of margarine. The landlords already find that farms in the neighbourhood of margarine factories are letting at higher prices than they did before. I commend the attitude of the right hon. Gentleman with respect to this vexed question of colouring. I will not go at the present moment into the clause dealing with this subject, because when we come to the clauses we shall be able to speak upon them separately. There is only one point about which I should like to inquire. I notice that a new Committee is to be appointed, and possibly the right hon. Gentleman may have seen a statement published in the *North British Agriculturist*, in the issue of July 12th, in which it points out that:

"On Wednesday last, as we know from a sure source, Mr. Long, on visiting the Highland show, was greatly mortified at being informed that there was no likelihood of his being invited back to hold another conference with the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture and the agricultural associations affiliated therewith. On the following day it was made known to the inner circle that this committee to investigate and report on food preservatives and other questions connected with the Bill, would be appointed, with Sir Herbert Maxwell as chairman, and this will furnish a good excuse for withdrawing the Bill in the meantime, and

having it passed in an amended form next session. Sir Herbert Maxwell is known to be sound on the colouring of margarine question, and is very anxious to get Mr. Long 'extricated from the bog,' to use Mr. Long's own phrase."

MR. LONG: Will the hon. Gentleman allow me to say that there is not a shadow of foundation for the statements contained in the quotation he has just read.

***SIR JOHN LENG:** I am glad the right hon. Gentleman has made the statement that there is no intention to get behind the Bill. The hon. Member for South Somerset has quoted with great emphasis a Report from the Chamber of Commerce at Manchester. All I know about that Report is that I read it very carefully, and a few days afterwards I received the statement that its issue was unauthorised and that it has been issued without the sanction of the Chamber itself, and therefore it goes for very little. But while I have very great respect for the intelligence of Manchester, I have still more respect for the intelligence of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Leith, and Dundee, because the inhabitants there are clear-headed, long-headed people. Let me read one or two sentences from the petition of the Chamber of Commerce and manufacturers in the City of Glasgow, incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783. They say :

"Your petitioners observe that by the provisions of this Bill a novel and pernicious principle is proposed to be introduced into common law. Legislation enforcing the impoverishment, injury, or total suppression of the manufacture of any wholesome and important food is out with all existing statutory enactment, and would inflict a direct injury alike upon the consumers and upon the producers of the food.

"Your petitioners are of opinion that the impoverishment of margarine is unnecessary as a protection against its fraudulent sale as butter. They are authoritatively informed that the mixture of margarine and butter can be ascertained by chemical analysis, whether the addition amounts to 10 or 50 per cent. of either the one food or the other. The contention, therefore, that to limit the quantity of butter in margarine to 10 per cent. is necessary to secure a conviction under the Food and Drugs Act is wholly without foundation."

The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce say :

"In particular your petitioners point out that Clause 8, if passed, might prove the destruction of the margarine trade—one in the maintenance of which all classes of the com-

munity (except a certain section connected with the home dairying interests) are directly or indirectly financially concerned.

"That clause would make unlawful to manufacture or sell any margarine which contains more than 10 per cent. butter fat, whereas it has been repeatedly proved by analysis that margarine to which no butter has been added may contain upwards of 10 per cent. butter fat, even as much as 17½ per cent.

"Your petitioners further are of opinion that to require that food which is approved by use as margarine is should be impoverished before being offered for sale is contrary to the interest, and is opposed to the usual line of Parliamentary legislation."

The Chambers of Commerce for Leith and for the city which I represent have also strongly petitioned this House against the Bill, not by what I call machine-made petitions such as those which have been presented in its favour, but all of them by petitions couched in different language and framed by the Chambers of Commerce concerned. When we come to Clause 8 I think we shall be able to show that it is altogether contrary to the principles of enlightened legislation, and that, at all events, it should be amended in a different direction from that which has been advocated by hon. Gentlemen below the gangway. The last objection which I make to this Bill is its denial of the right of trial by jury of the persons who will be subjected to very heavy fines and imprisonment with hard labour under its provisions. The penal Section provides that :

"Where a person guilty of an offence is liable to a fine not exceeding £50 that person shall be liable (if the court is of opinion that a fine will not meet the circumstances of the case) to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding three months."

The courts before which these offences will be tried will be courts of summary jurisdiction, and it is quite easy to conceive that the magistrates of these courts may be imbued with similar feelings with regard to margarine as those which have been given expression to in this House; and they may easily find special circumstances to justify them not only in imposing heavy fines, but also imprisonment with hard labour for three months. I do hope that this House will not, for the first time, impose upon traders who may, in certain circumstances quite innocently, make an infraction of this proposed statute, a penalty which will subject them

Sir John Leng.

to what will mean absolute ruin ; for if you send a tradesman or general dealer to prison for three months with hard labour for an alleged fraud, you may not only shut up his shop, but he need never again resume business. I say that, in such cases, the offenders should have the right of appeal to a British jury, and for that reason I have adopted an Amendment which was drafted by the late Mr. Ascroft, who was not only a man of remarkable common-sense, but his moral rectitude was shown by the vigorous action he took against the sharks of the money-lending fraternity. He was a man who could distinguish between moral crimes and statutory offences, and it is his Amendment which I have adopted. I hope that that Amendment will receive general support in this House. In conclusion I trust that the House, representing all interests in the country, will not be guided solely by consideration merely of the agricultural interest or the interests of a section of the dealers in butter, but will also consider the interests of all classes of consumers, many of whom have not the means to purchase high price butter, and are glad for their wives on Saturday night to buy a cheap, wholesome, and nutritious article at very often only half the price of butter. Then again, we should respect those manufacturers who have invested a large amount of capital in margarine factories, and I may point out here that there has been no case since the Margarine Act of 1887 was passed in which a prosecution against a manufacturer has succeeded ; and on behalf of the whole trading and commercial interests of this country I do hope that this House will not lend itself merely to furthering the interests of the butter associations against the margarine associations. What I would say is, let the English farmers and landed proprietors adopt better systems of agriculture and cultivation, and devote themselves more to self-reliance and self-help. They should not always be looking to Parliament to improve their position ; this rests with themselves, and they should be left to work out their own salvation. The Scottish farmers do not come whining to this House for assistance, for they agree generally with the views expressed by the Scotch Chambers of Commerce. Let our own British farmers and landed proprietors endeavour to meet the foreign and colonial producer of butter by producing

butter themselves of an equally excellent quality, in equally merchantable quantities, and at the same price. Surely our farmers, farming their own land near our great cities and populous towns, should be able to compete with growers on the other side of the German Ocean, on the other side of the Atlantic, and even at the Antipodes, in Australia and New Zealand. These foreign growers have to pay merchants' commission, shipowners' freights, and insurance, cold storage, and also the expense of refrigerating chambers. Surely, under these circumstances, British farmers ought to be able to compete with the foreigners. I do really hope that English farmers will rely more upon themselves, and that the farmers in the South of England will imitate the farmers in Scotland in this respect. I trust, also, that the deluded members of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce will take an example from the Chambers of Commerce in Edinburgh and Glasgow. If this House decides to give its support to these views, this Bill, before Consideration is finished, will receive a number of very important Amendments.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) : In the discussion which has arisen upon the proposal of my hon. friend the Member for South Somerset, we have been drifting into a debate in reference to the producers of agricultural produce and the manufacture of certain articles of food. In that discussion, which is so far not altogether unjustifiable, very little has been said about the consumer, although it is the consumer, who above all others, is interested in this Bill. Our object in trying to make this measure better has been, as far as possible, to secure the consumer from fraud or from anything that is injurious to his health or his pocket. If we bear that principle in mind, I think this Bill will commend itself to the consideration of the House, and before it leaves this and the final stage it will, I hope, have been so altered as to be a measure which will be a benefit to the great masses of the community. The discussion which has been raised is not an unjustifiable one, because this measure differs vastly from the Bill as it passed the Second Reading. I find that as the Bill came from the Grand Committee, one-third of it is new matter, and out of twenty-six clauses no less than twenty-one have been amended. Therefore this measure requires serious con-

sideration by every Member of this House before it passes into law. I do not think the proposal made by the hon. Member for South Somerset is an improper one, for it is a proposal which calls the attention of the House very justly to the great changes which have been made in this Bill during its passage through the Grand Committee. As far as I am concerned, and as far as my information leads me to a conclusion, I regard this Bill as greatly improved in the shape in which it now stands as compared with the shape in which it was introduced. Nevertheless, it introduces great changes in the law, and therefore the measure requires very deliberate consideration. There is in this Bill an opportunity of bringing about an inspection at the port of entry, which is of very great importance indeed to the consumer. If we had nothing left in the Bill but the third clause, I do not think that we should want much else in order to have the law properly carried out. The third clause, for the first time in the history of this class of legislation, compels the local authority to enforce the law. I should be very sorry to interfere with anything in that clause, for it will do much in the way of making adulteration scarce in this country. I think that when we make it the statutory duty of every authority to administer the Adulteration Acts, we take a step which will be for the benefit of the whole community, and in particular a great benefit to the consumer. We have certain other novelties in the measure, some of which will be very valuable. We have a system of inspection under the Local Government Board, as well as under the Board of Agriculture, which will keep the local authorities up to their duty. I regard the Bill as somewhat revolutionary in another respect, inasmuch as it partly takes away from the Local Government Board the supervision of the Food and Drugs Act; but that is a point which we shall have to consider. I do not think that the new Board of Agriculture ought to step in and take over these duties, which have been discharged for a quarter of a century by the Local Government Board. The President of the Board of Agriculture appears to have rushed in where the angel of the Local Government Board fears to tread. I hope we shall not be led to consider too much either the producer or the manufacturer, because in this measure the well-being of

the consumer is especially concerned, and it is the consumer who is to be protected from injury by an Act such as this. I think my hon. friend who moved this Amendment has now gained all he desired by having produced this very interesting Debate by his proposal, and I hope he will not put the House to the trouble of a Division after he has obtained so much valuable information.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.) : I recognise that this Bill contains one or two valuable provisions which I would like to see extended to Ireland. I think that generally in Ireland disappointment will be felt, because the main grievance that we have in relation to adulteration of agricultural products, namely, the colouring of margarine, has not been dealt with. The butter industry is one of the largest in Ireland, and, speaking of that industry, I think I can safely say that the Irish manufacturers of butter are not in the least afraid of any form of honest competition. But we have the distinct grievance that our manufacture of butter is met by what I must call dishonest competition. What we object to is this: that our neighbours produce a product which is not butter, but, through the ignorance of the purchaser, they are enabled to sell it as Irish butter. If it could be made plain to us that margarine would always be sold as margarine, and that there would be no infringement of the various Acts of Parliament dealing with the sale of margarine, then we should have no objection; but this is perfectly impossible so long as margarine is allowed to be coloured like butter, for poor people often purchase in a hurry, and though they expect to get butter they often get margarine. A good deal has been said about the necessity of supporting the interests of the working man in this matter. I am perfectly certain that nine working men out of every ten would much prefer butter to margarine, but as things are now it is perfectly impossible to suppose that if a workman or his wife or daughter go into a grocer's shop they have any means of knowing which is margarine and which is butter.

AN HON. MEMBER: But the Act of 1887 provides for that..

Sir Walter Foster

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: Yes, but that Act has never been properly enforced, and the difficulty we have is that no Act will be properly enforced. All we should do is to insist that if an article is sold as margarine, it should be sold in its natural colour. Some hon. Members have said that if margarine were sold in its natural colour nobody would buy it. That seems to me to be a very strong and urgent reason why we should insist upon it being sold in its natural colour. Hon. Members who have travelled on the Continent know that in some places they can only get white butter, and they can eat that just as well as yellow butter. I do not believe that if margarine were sold in its natural colour it would make any difference to the people who wish to use margarine instead of butter. It has been said that the working man is greatly interested in cheap food, but as far as I can gather, the opinion of working men as represented in this House is in favour of having an honest article. This being such an important industry in Ireland, I think it would not be right for Irish Members to allow this Bill to pass without, at all events, expressing their opinion that the Irish butter industry is very badly treated in this respect. We are not afraid of honest competition, but what we do object to is dishonest competition.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): The right hon. Gentleman on the Front Opposition Bench has told us that we ought to consider this matter in the interests of the consumer. I think that this is most important advice, and I am sure the House will bear it in mind. The only thing is that the consumer may have two interests at stake, and the House will have to bear in mind those two interests. So far as my hon. friend is concerned, he appears to bear only one of those interests in mind. He has spoken of the consumer being protected from fraud. We are dealing with questions of fraud all through this Bill; but you have also got to consider the interests of the consumer who has got a small purse, and to protect him against the rich and powerful class who want to protect themselves by this measure. I quite agree that we ought to do everything we can to repress fraud, but if that is our object, we ought to pass legislation conceived in the spirit of the Act of 1875. I do not think Parliament

has improved in its treatment of this great question. If anyone will look at the Act of 1875, it will be found that that Act deals with food broadly, and there is no special article singled out. It provides that there shall be no fraud connected with any food, and it looks at the interests of the consumer generally, and does it in a more intelligent way. So much for the Act of 1875. I believe the present Bill has been blessed by my hon. friend the Member for Devonport, who introduced a Bill last year, upon the back of which I placed my name. But that was a very different Bill from this, and I cannot understand for a moment how anybody who introduced a Bill like that of last year could lend his support and make himself responsible for the proposals in the present Bill. If anyone will look at the two measures he will see that the proposals are absolutely different. This is the great point upon which the House ought to fix its mind. In 1887 we had a bad measure from the predecessors of the present Government, and that measure was full of margarine. Now we are having another measure which is full of margarine, and I am sick of margarine. We have heard too much of it in this Debate—too much of margarine and too much of butter. I do not know anything, consciously, of margarine. I have not been spoken to by any manufacturers of margarine, and I have tried to keep away from the butter associations as far as I could. I think we should remember that we are dealing with broad national interests, and we should not talk too much about any single article, but embody something in the Bill which will apply to all articles of food. That is the great objection I find to the present Bill, which is full of one article, and it is framed in the interests of powerful and rich classes instead of being full of general principles applying to all classes of food. There is a rich and powerful class protected in the Bill, and that is the agricultural interest, and the interests of the butter associations. I do not want to speak much about margarine, because I think the Committee has already heard enough about it. Margarine appears to be made as an honest article and a useful food. If that is so, why should it not have fair play in this Bill? There is nothing about the honest man in this Bill at all, and it is aimed entirely at the fraudulent person. My point is that if we have a fair descrip-

tion of margarine, it is an honest article which may be honestly sold; and it is a cheap and useful food suitable to people who have got small purses. If that is so, it ought to be treated as an honest article, and we should not allow the stigmas which are laid upon it under this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman who has spoken from the front Opposition bench has stated that it is necessary to inspect the goods at the port of entry. Already the Bill is full of administrative confusion, and if we establish a second examining authority at the port of entry, the result will be that many articles will get through without being examined at all. I want every article of food landed to be examined by the proper authority, and the Customs authorities are the proper people to deal with this question. The effect of having two distinct authorities will be that bad articles will get in without being examined, because the Customs authorities will say, "We thought the Board of Agriculture would do this"; and the Board of Agriculture will say, "We thought the Customs would do it." We shall have confusion at the port of entry, but that will only be the beginning of the trouble, and it will be a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth, and nobody's interests will be properly managed. It may be said that it will be very hard to get the Customs, the Local Government Board, or the local authorities to do their duty, but I do not believe in Parliament shrinking from these hard tasks and taking on an easy way when it is a bad way. For these reasons I think the proposals of this Bill should be viewed with some suspicion. There are some extraordinary anomalies in the Bill, and I will mention one of them. The Bill makes an invoice a warranty, although it does not define what an invoice is. Invoices are usually written by the worst paid clerks in a commercial establishment, and yet, hereafter, every invoice so made will be a warranty binding on the firm. I think this should not be allowed without imposing some very great safeguards, and there should be a limit of time fixed during which action may be taken on the warranty. There are many classes of margarine and butter which are not so good in a month as they are when they come in. Is the merchant who sent out those goods to be responsible for them seven days or a month after they are delivered? There is no

provision made for anything of this kind, for the Committee upstairs were in a hurry; therefore, I think it would be better to take this proposal out of the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill is responsible for many of these great changes, and I notice that there are Amendments down to make the Bill apply to other sorts of food as well as margarine and butter. These are good Amendments so far as they go, but I think the right hon. Gentleman would do better if he would take a little more time to consider this question before he presses it upon the House. I would venture to suggest that the best course to take would be to withdraw the Bill altogether, for I believe that I have shown that it contains some very great anomalies. If the Bill is withdrawn, and we are allowed to carefully consider it during the next six months, I believe we shall then be able to address ourselves to this very important subject, to the advantage of the community at large.

MR. LAMBERT (Devon, South Molton): I shall not intervene for more than two or three minutes, but I wish to allude to the remarks made by the hon. Member who has just sat down, which I think challenge a little criticism. I do not think the hon. Member could have given the Government a better text to go to the country upon. He said there was nothing in the Bill about honest people, and that the measure aimed at fraudulent persons only. I think a Bill ought to deal with fraudulent people very strictly. Then the hon. Member made an Irish "bull," for he said that he was sick of margarine although he had never consciously tasted it. My hon. friend went on to say that invoices were made out by the worst paid clerks in an office. I hope that is not the case in his own establishment, and if that is the state of things which exists it ought to be altered at once. My hon. friend also said that we ought to deal with margarine in the spirit of the Act of 1875, but in that year margarine was not in existence. With regard to what has been said by the hon. Member for Dundee, I may say that I have never heard a Member in this House fancy himself and his people more than the hon. Member for Dundee. He drew a comparison, apparently much to his own satisfaction, between us and "hard-headed sensible

Scotchmen," and he was very severe on this Bill, because it proposes to inflict imprisonment. But how is imprisonment brought in? It is only brought in after the third offence, and then it is at the discretion of the magistrate, who has an opportunity of letting the offender off again. The Debate commenced with the question of margarine, but I do not intend to prolong this discussion, because there are other Amendments on the Paper which I hope may be carried. The hon. Member for Dundee said the imports of margarine were decreasing, while the imports of butter were going up. It is a very extraordinary thing that the imports of butter from Holland are going up, while at the same time that country is the seat of the margarine trade. Holland sends us 90 per cent. of our margarine, and the increase in the importation of butter from Holland has gone up 40 per cent. since the year 1895, which proves that there is a very considerable amount of margarine manufactured in Holland which is imported into this country as butter. That is what we hope to stop by this Bill. I will not go further into this discussion at the present stage, but content myself with the few remarks which I have made. I may say that if the hon. Member for South Somerset divides the House on this subject I shall support the Government, because I would rather have this Bill than no Bill at all.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): The right hon. Gentleman has stated that he has never seen a Bill which has received so much support in the country as this Bill, especially the proposal which it contains in reference to regulating the sale of margarine. The right hon. Gentleman has stated that as to the restrictions which it is proposed to place upon the margarine trade the whole of the agriculturists of the country were united. I think that shows clearly that the proposals of this Bill have the effect of pitting the interests of the agriculturists against those of the towns. As far as I have been able to judge, my opinion is that I never saw any measure proposed by any Government upon which there was such an absolutely unanimous opinion against the proposals of the Government in reference to margarine. My hon. friend the Member for Dundee quoted the opinion of a number of chambers of commerce in Scotland, in-

cluding Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, and so forth. In Glasgow the town council has gone dead against the Government proposals as regards margarine. In reference to Clause 8 they say :

"The Corporation see no justifiable reason, from the point of view of the citizens, why their margarine should be limited in quality, as it would be were Clause 8 passed into law."

And later on the Health Committee, entrusted with the administration of the Food and Drugs Bill in connection with the Glasgow Corporation, issued a very strong letter upon the subject, in which they stated :

"Clause 8 seems a *reductio ad absurdum*, as it prohibits adding a superior article to an inferior, although the mixture must be sold under the inferior name. It deprives the public of a palatable and wholesome article of food, and compels them either to pay a much higher price for butter, or be content with a much inferior article, and prohibits the well-doer from well-doing in an effort to prevent fraud by the fraudulent."

We are told that the reason for these proposals is that if a sufficient amount of butter is added—more than 10 per cent.—it is impossible for the analyst to detect the fraud. But what do this committee say on this point? They say :

"Our city analyst advises us that even 40 per cent. of butter added to margarine is quite capable of detection, and that the existing powers are sufficient for prosecuting successfully for selling any mixture in any proportions of margarine and butter as butter. Nothing can be clearer than that the more butter there is in margarine the better for the buyer and consumer."

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): But why not all butter?

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: Certainly, but why not a mixture if it is sold as a mixture? Here is the opinion of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society. They say :

"We have seen a copy of the letter of the 29th ult. sent to you by the Public Health Committee of the City of Glasgow. Our society is composed of 289 co-operative societies, with a membership of over 220,000, all ratepayers and voters living in all parts of Scotland. Our members are chiefly of the working classes, who are interested in the clauses of the Bill and in preventing any restriction affecting the sale of a wholesome article. We entirely concur in what is said in the letter of the Health Committee, and we trust that you will use your utmost en-

deavours to get the suggestions therein made carried into effect, and thus benefit the general public."

But that is not all. I have here a memorial to the House from the Lanark County Council, which represents one of the most populous counties in Scotland, also expressing the same view. The right hon. Gentleman on the Front Opposition Bench and several other speakers have spoken in praise of this Bill, but it strikes me the hon. Gentleman the Member for Islington struck the true note when he protested against legislation for special articles, and when he demanded that the Bill should be made applicable to food generally. But what do we find in connection with this Bill? It consists of two parts. Under the first part the importation of certain articles which are insufficiently described is not prohibited at the port of entry. The second part deals with the sale and manufacture of adulterated articles within the United Kingdom. We find that the prohibition at the port of entry is restricted to agricultural products, and to a certain class manufactured from milk, and these are dealt with in a fragmentary, illusory, and unintelligible fashion. For instance, milk from which the cream has been extracted must be marked "skimmed" or "separated." At the same time you admit impoverished cheese, but if it contains anything in the shape of margarine you insist upon it being subject to all sorts of restrictions. This Bill deals in a fragmentary manner with one article, and makes no provision in connection with the fraud which in all probability will arise in the case of other articles. In the case of butter it is proposed to provide for the stoppage at the port of entry of impoverished butter. Now, what is impoverished butter? It is the butter made from skimmed milk; if it is worth while to try and get butter from skimmed milk, such butter will be just as good as an equal amount of the butter which has been previously taken from the same milk. The greatest ingenuity cannot get more fat out of the milk than it contains. The butter from separated milk, if it would pay to make it, is just as good as the other butter, for impoverished butter does not mean butter than has been adulterated with margarine. Why is this legislation being carried out by a system of traps and pitfalls? Why has not a standard been laid down at which butter should be con-

sidered adulterated, in order to enable us to understand what is meant by the Bill? The Bill takes no account of "process" butter, which is infinitely more deleterious than adulterated butter. "Process" butter is old, rancid butter sent through a certain process and made to taste like new. The acid which gives the butter its rancid taste is washed out, but the bacilli are retained, and consequently the butter goes back to its rancid condition in a very short time. "Process" butter is injurious to health, and yet this Bill does not take the smallest note of it. Take the case of margarine itself and see what the proposal in the Bill amounts to. As the hon. Member for South Molton said, it is a very suspicious circumstance than the importation of butter from Holland is largely increasing, the explanation probably being that a large amount of the Dutch butter imported into this country is really margarine. We know it is impossible to detect the adulteration if there is a larger proportion of butter in margarine than 10 per cent., and therefore the case for the provision in the Bill falls to the ground.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is now entering into a discussion which had better be reserved until the clause standing in the name of the hon. Member is reached.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I only wish to show the uselessness of this clause with regard to butter adulterated with margarine. There is nothing at all to prevent a foreign manufacturer mixing 30 per cent. or 40 per cent. of margarine with butter and sending it into this country. It cannot be detected, and nothing can prevent the dairy farmer in this country doing the same thing. I object to the Bill in so far as it does not deal with the subject in a comprehensive manner. None of the adulterations commonly met with are dealt with. Preserves, for instance, have formed the subject of many prosecutions, but they have been neglected by the framers of this measure. Why have not general principles been adopted, and why are we asked to give the Government a blank cheque to interfere with any trade they may think proper? The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Thanet said this interference would be a mere bagatelle. That is not the view I take. The whole

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of this case as regards butter and margarine was brought before the Supreme Court of the United States, which will be admitted by everyone to be one of the ablest tribunals in the whole world. Several States in the Union, under the influence of the agriculturists, passed laws prohibiting the manufacture of margarine, or insisting that the product should be coloured. For instance, one State passed the "pink law" and very grave penalties were enacted against any person transgressing it. A number of dealers contravened the law and were arrested, and a test case was brought before the Supreme Court of Appeal, which delivered the following judgment :

"The Legislature in common with many others speaks of butter as a product of nature. Butter is no more a product of nature than butterine. Both are manufactured. The principle ingredients of butter come primarily from the cow, and pass through different processes of manufacture to its finished state. Science by various chemical processes extracts the principal ingredients of butterine from the cow and kindred animals, and the complete products are practically the same in both cases. The Legislature may pass any reasonable regulations for the manufacture and sale both of butter and butterine. It cannot prohibit the manufacture or sale of wholesome and nutritious articles of food, either directly or under the guise of regulatory Acts. It is insisted that the Legislature has the sole right to say whether the Act is reasonable or not, and its discretion cannot be inquired into by the courts. If that be true then the Legislature may at its next session, prompted by the butterine or some other interests, remove all regulations on the manufacture or sale of butterine, and prohibit the use of annato or any other colouring matter, or even the use of salt in butter, and add such other regulations as would amount to a prohibition of the manufacture or sale of butter. Then they might prohibit the grinding of corn meal so as to make the meal white, or they might require all corn meal to be ground coarse and coloured yellow so that it would not resemble wheat flour. In fact, the field that would be open to the Legislature would be unlimited, and the greatest monopolies this country has ever seen might be fostered and built up in this State if the Legislature was so inclined, and there would be no redress for the people."

This present Bill has been completely remodelled, and I think we ought to have some general principles on which to rely. The Feeding Stuffs and Fertilisers Act really aims at adulteration, because it seeks to grapple with the subject at the fountain head. This Bill contents itself with harrowing retailers and leaving the manufacturers untouched. Section 13 of the Sale of Goods Act provides that where goods are

sold with a description there is an implied understanding that they correspond with that description. For instance, a grocer recently sold two tins of syrup. They were labelled "First Class," but they were afterwards found to be adulterated. The grocer was prosecuted for selling adulterated goods, and fined £6. Of course, the grocer was punished even to a greater extent than the mere amount of the fine, because he was convicted of selling adulterated goods, and his rivals would not scruple to take advantage of that fact when pushing their own trade as against his. The Feeding Stuffs and Fertilisers Act carries the matter still further.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is now entering into a detailed discussion, which would be more appropriate on the Amendments which stand in the hon. Member's name on the Paper.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON : I do not, of course, Sir, wish to contest your ruling, but it seems to me that legislation of this kind should be constructed on general principles. We are asked to give the Minister of Agriculture a blank cheque with regard to the setting up of standards. Hon. Gentlemen from Ireland appear to trust themselves blindfolded to the Board of Agriculture. I would ask them whether it would not be better that, instead of leaving the whole of this question as to what constitutes adulteration of butter to the Board of Agriculture, it should be laid down in the Act of Parliament. The right hon. Gentleman himself may have no intention of dealing harshly in the matter, but he cannot bind his successors. The Bill has been somewhat improved by the Amendments carried in Committee, but they were forced on the right hon. Gentleman almost at the point of the bayonet. For instance, one Amendment gives power to the Local Government Board to enforce the administration of the Food and Drugs Act in districts in which it is neglected. The right hon. Gentleman told us he could not accept that, and he only accepted it after several of his hon. friends got up and pressed him on the point. Another improvement is, that an analyst should be compulsorily appointed. There, again, that Amendment was not brought forward

by the right hon. Gentleman, although he accepted without the smallest trouble what my hon. friend the Member for Dundee has described as "the clause for altruistic imprisonment." The legal doctrine is that a man should be responsible for the acts of his agent, but I do not know of any instance where a man has been made criminally responsible for the acts of another. The Bill now appears to me to be conceived entirely in the interests of one class. It will work so little good, and will have such little effect in preventing adulteration, that if my hon. friend goes to a Division I will support him.

MR. KILBRIDE (Galway, N.) : The hon. Baronet who has just sat down has appealed to the Irish Members to be careful as to what they are going to do in connection with this Bill. He has asked us if we are going blindfolded to put the case of the Irish agriculturist into the hands of the President of the Board of Agriculture. In these matters, although I confess that we are indebted for a great deal of support to Scotch Members, I would say to the hon. Baronet that we are the best judges of our own affairs. I would further draw his attention to the fact that the right hon. Gentleman has undertaken in this Bill to appoint a Board of Reference, or, at any rate, that before the Board of Agriculture proceeds to say what percentage of water is legitimate in butter he will take every means of ascertaining what is legitimate. I do not know that during his early career the right hon. Gentleman has been in any way remarkable for running away from any undertaking given by him in this House, and I do not anticipate that the Irish producers will labour under any difficulty in the matter. I notice that the opponents of this Bill are unanimous in agreeing that it is intended solely and entirely to benefit agriculture, and that the Government has been forced by the representatives of agricultural interests in this House to introduce the Bill. The hon. Member for West Islington in the course of this Debate asked would any Irish Member get up and deny that fact. I deny that the Government have been forced by the representatives of agriculture. I deny that it is because of agricultural depression that the Government have been forced to bring in this Bill. It

is because of admitted frauds, as well as of their immensity and continuance, that it has been found that the existing law is not sufficiently strong to prohibit fraud, and the Government have been forced in the interest of just trading to bring in this Bill. My hon. friend says that from beginning to end the Bill deals solely with fraud. Of course it does, because its sole object is to stop fraud. We have heard over and over again that this is a fight between town and country. It is nothing of the kind. It is a fight on the part of the honest trader against the dishonest trader. If it be a fact, and I admit it is, that these frauds hit not only the honest trader, but also the agricultural producer, is it because the agricultural producer finds himself badly hit, that we are to be told that this Bill to prevent such frauds is introduced solely in the interests of agriculture, and that working men are to be deprived of wholesome articles of food? I notice that during this Debate no direct representative of labour has got up and said that this Bill will deprive the poor man of a cheap and wholesome article of food. That argument is used, not by the working men representatives, but by the capitalists, and I prefer to believe that my hon. friend the Member for Battersea or my hon. friend the Member for Stepney, is better entitled to speak on behalf of the working classes than the hon. Member for the Bridgeton Division or the hon. Member for Dundee. We are told this Bill was forced upon the Government. No doubt it was, and I am very glad the Government have introduced it. The hon. Member for West Islington told us that he put his name on the back of the Bill introduced by the hon. Member for Devonport. He did not tell us whether he regretted that fact or not, though I am inclined to believe he does regret it. The principal provisions in the present Bill were contained in the Bill of the hon. Member for Devonport. The latter Bill contained imprisonment, and as my hon. friend put his name on the back of the Bill, I am inclined to assume that he was in favour of imprisonment then, although he is against it now. That Bill also contained a provision for inspection at the port of entry. My hon. friend was in favour of that then, though he now says it is a monstrous interference with trade.

MR. LOUGH : I did not say anything of the kind. I said I was in favour of inspection at the port of entry, but that it should be carried out by the Customs and not by the Board of Agriculture.

MR. KILBRIDE : There is a provision in the present Bill stating that the inspection may be undertaken by the Commissioners of Customs. I would also direct the attention of the House to Clause 2, which states that the Local Government Board may in relation to any matter appearing to them to affect "the general interests of the consumer," etc. It does not say, it will be observed, "the general interests of agriculture." My hon. friend apparently has not read the Bill. One of the necessities for this measure is that the local authorities have refused, and still refuse, to put into operation the Act of 1887. It has been found that for years and years in some of the principal centres of population, especially in the North of England, the local authorities have allowed the Act to remain a dead letter. Hon. Members who oppose this Bill say that the existing law is sufficient, but what are they going to do to compel the local authorities to put that law into operation? It is because of the refusal of the local authorities that power has been taken in this Bill to have inspectors appointed by the Board of Agriculture in order to make the Act of 1887 operative. On the question of colouring there is an enormous amount of misapprehension. We are asked why margarine should not be coloured as well as butter. Although it may appear a strong statement, I deny that butter is coloured at all. I know no other article of food than margarine which after the colouring process has been gone through, is so changed as to be made unrecognisable by anyone who knows the article in its natural condition. We are accused that we want to kill the trade in margarine. I deny that. We admit margarine is an extremely wholesome article of food, and we are aware of the fact that a very large number of people are engaged in the trade. We are not at all opposed to the trade, but we are moving in the interests of the consumer. It is said that we are forgetting Free Trade, and that this is the thin edge of the wedge of Protection. There are protectionists and protectionists; there is such a thing as broad protection. I was shocked and surprised during the

whole proceedings in the Select Committee, in the Grand Committee, and in the Debates in the House, at the number of gentlemen whom I believed to be above reproach, but who have suddenly developed into Protectionists. I hope the hon. Gentleman who moved this Amendment will not go to a Division. I admit that the Bill does not go far enough, but I agree with what has been said by the hon. Member for Devonport, that as it stands the Bill contains very valuable provisions, and that it is a considerable advance on the law as it exists. I would say to my friends who are very strong on this question of colouring: Give the Bill a chance, and see how it will operate. If it is found after a reasonable time that its provisions are not sufficient to stop fraud, then a stronger case than ever will have been made out against the colouring of margarine.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) : I quite agree with my hon. friend who has just spoken, that this is not a question between town and country, but quite the contrary. There is no doubt that margarine offers great inducement to fraudulent trading, seeing that it can be bought at 4d. per lb., while it is frequently sold at 8d., 10d., and 1s. per lb. It inflicts unquestionably a very great disadvantage on farmers, for it ousts farmers out of their legitimate market. But in adopting this Bill we are not legislating solely for agriculturists, but in the interest also of consumers in large towns. Tons of margarine bought at 3½d. and 4d. per lb. are coloured and palmed off on the poor as butter, and the price of butter paid for it. I do not want to detain the House longer, since the case has been so well stated by my hon. friend the Member for North Galway, but I want to refer for a moment to the speech of the hon. Member for Dundee. He quoted statistics to show that the importation of margarine has largely decreased, and that the manufacture of margarine has progressed in this country. It matters not whether the margarine is manufactured in this, or in other countries. There are four manufactories in Ireland. We say, however, even if it is made in Ireland, let it be sold as margarine, and not palmed off on the poor as butter. It is now almost impossible to detect margarine in appearance from butter, and it is necessary in the interest of the farmers who are seriously injured, and

also of the consumers, that the Government should take steps to stop these frauds. I should have wished the Bill had been stronger than it is. We proposed to do this in Committee upstairs, but were not able to carry the point. The Bill, however, has some provisions which would stop these fraudulent operations, and it is a step in advance.

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, considered.

MR. LONG : I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name on the Paper. This small drafting Amendment is introduced because it is thought to be the more convenient way to have all the enactments repealed in the schedule than scattered about the Bill.

A Clause (Repeal of enactments in Schedule),—(Mr. Long),—brought up, and read the first and second time, and added.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON moved the insertion of the following new clause :

"When an employer is charged with an offence under this Act, he shall be entitled, upon information duly laid by him, to have any other person whom he charges as the actual offender brought before the Court at the time appointed for hearing the charge, and if, after the commission of the offence has been proved, the employer proves to the satisfaction of the Court that he has used due diligence to enforce the execution of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899, as defined by this Act, and that the said other person had committed the offence in question without his knowledge, consent, or connivance, the said other person shall be summarily convicted of such offence, and the employer shall be exempt from any penalty."

It was quite right that a man should be responsible civilly for every act of his employee, but there was no precedent, so far as he (Sir C. Cameron) knew, for a criminal responsibility being fixed on one man in respect of the action of another. This Bill, for the first time, proposed to treat an offence against the Food and Drugs Act as a crime for which a man may be sent to prison, and unless the new clause he proposed was added to the Bill an employer might be sentenced to three months' imprisonment for hard labour for

the act of an employee for which he was not responsible, and for the prevention of which he had used due diligence. He submitted that that was a most urgent argument in favour of the introduction of the clause he proposed.

Clause (Exemption from penalty)—(Sir Charles Cameron)—brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. LONG : The hon. Baronet has, judging from his speech, misunderstood what the effect of this clause will be. Under the sixteenth clause a person guilty of a breach of the Act is liable to a fine of £20 for the first offence, of £50 for the second offence, and of £100 for the third offence. But in the case of the third offence, if the offence, in the opinion of the court, "was committed by the personal act, default, or negligence of the person accused," imprisonment for that offence may be imposed if the court considers that a fine would not meet the circumstances of the case. The master is, therefore, only liable to imprisonment for the third offence. It is the master who receives the benefit of these repeated evasions of the Act, and it is the master and not the servant—perhaps a boy earning a few shillings a week—who should be held responsible. In the interests of fair play the House ought to adhere to the Bill as it stands, which provides that a master shall be liable for the offence of his servant, but which guards the master against the risk of unjust imprisonment.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Stockport) : If any of these Amendments go to a Division I shall vote against them. I shall do so because the Bill as it now stands is in my judgment a good one. It is the best Bill that could be drafted under the circumstances under which it was initiated. It was considered in Committee, and the result was a compromise between a great many conflicting interests: the agricultural interest, the distributing interest, the importing interest, and the consuming interest. This Bill is the happy medium. The right hon. Gentleman's attitude during the progress of the Bill through the Committee was a wise and impartial

Mr. Power.

one, and I protest against raking up everything again by these Amendments. I venture to say that the House, in considering these Amendments, should have regard to the fact that the Bill is a compromise, and only accept drafting Amendments.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER: I do not want to injure or imperil the Bill by the introduction of Amendments, but I think the right hon. Gentleman has stated the case a little too strongly. It does seem hard that a man should be rendered liable to very serious penalties through the action of another who may be a malicious employee. It is quite conceivable that a person with a grudge against his employer might adulterate butter or other articles, when they are sold miles away from where the owner is. I do not think there is sufficient justification for the attitude taken by the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): The position taken by the hon. Member for Stockport is somewhat a strange one, and one against which it is necessary to protest. He says he is in favour of these Amendments, but he does not vote for them because the Bill was the result of a compromise in Committee. If we are to act on that principle we might as well go home. We are not bound by the conclusions at which the Committee have arrived.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY: I only explained my attitude.

MR. PICKERSGILL: With regard to the Amendment now before the House, although I think this Bill is in some respects too stringent, I do not think the particular part of it against which my hon. friend has spoken is open to objection. My hon. friend made a strong point when he drew attention to Clause 2, Sub-section 16, and pointed out that it would be quite a new thing to send a man to prison for the fault of his servant. But I think my right hon. friend has clearly met that by pointing out that even as the Bill now stands the proprietor can only be sent to prison for negligence. On that ground I do not feel that we should be in danger, and for that reason I support the Amendment.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I suppose it is of no use to protest, but it does seem to be rather a strong order, when the offence is proved to be committed by another man, that the court should not be allowed to convict the real offender. For us to pass a law under those circumstances seems to me to be going rather far. As I said in Committee, I could not go as far as that, and in my judgment the Government are going too far in this matter.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): It is highly necessary in the interests of the employer that he should be made responsible for the acts of his servant. The employer has control over his servant, and he is the person to benefit. The idea that the Bill will work harshly because the employer may be sent to prison is a complete mistake, because it is only in respect to the third offence, and where the third offence is proved to be due to the employer's negligence, that that penalty is enforced.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire): This clause is a most extraordinary one, having regard to the position of the law as it at present stands. The suggestion is that the employee has his defence against a prosecution in the fact that somebody else can be prosecuted.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: That is the clause in the Margarine Act.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: Yes; that is the only exception, and I do not know how that crept into law in that Bill, because I am certain it is a wrong principle, and is a new departure in criminal law. To say that a man is responsible for the acts of his servant is also going a little too far, but to say that he is criminally responsible is going much too far. The right hon. Gentleman is perfectly right in saying that the employer cannot be liable unless it can be shown that it was his personal neglect. I shall vote against this Amendment, because it brings in a new principle of criminal law which is very objectionable.

Question put, and negatived.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: The clause I now propose to move is a clause to apply to the wholesaler, and to take a sample at the port of entry; every seizure there will do more good than a seizure at fifty little petty traders. We must deal with margarine by going direct to the factory, and compelling the manufacturer to keep a register and subject them to inspection. I am against special legislation as a rule, but I do not see in this case why the wholesaler should not be put on the same level as the retailer, and I am perfectly certain that if this clause is accepted, you put a weapon in the hands of the rate-payers which will prove effectual. Let me illustrate my point. A man is brought up for selling syrup made from beet, though the labels on the tins bear the legend that it is pure cane syrup; that man is fined and the manufacturer is allowed to go free. If you are going to suppress this adulteration why not go to the manufacturers and bring your action against them? If you did that you would at once get rid of that form of adulteration. It is upon these grounds that I beg to move the new clause standing in my name.

New clause:—

"The provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, shall apply to and include every wholesale trader or manufacturer of any article of food or drug who shall sell to the prejudice of the purchaser any article of food or drug which is not of the nature, substance, and quality of the article demanded by such purchaser, and the seventeenth section of the said Act shall be read as if the words 'whether by wholesale or' were inserted between the words 'on sale' and the words 'by retail' in the said section."—(Sir Charles Cameron.)

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I am afraid if the hon. Gentlemen's Amendment is accepted it will improve the Bill out of existence. I hope it will

be rejected, because the first part is not necessary, and the second part of the Amendment is not applicable. To give an officer liberty to enter a wholesale house and get the amount he requires for analysis is quite impracticable.

MR. LOUGH: I think the hon. Gentleman the Solicitor-General is a little hard on my hon. friend. Surely it is better to look at the merits of a particular Amendment, and accept it or reject it as it is good or bad. I do not think the objections raised by the hon. Gentleman apply, because it is quite customary for wholesale houses to supply samples; it is the business of the wholesalers to supply the retailers with samples. Of course, it would not be right to let the officers go into the wholesale houses and get samples without payment; but let them go and get them and pay for them, and if the samples are not what they appear to be, proceed against the wholesale houses, and thus strike at the root of the evil. I think this clause is vital to the Bill. The Bill is not what it purports to be. It hounds down the retailer, whilst the wholesaler is allowed to go free.

MR. RADCLIFFE COOKE (Hereford): Where a prosecution is undertaken against a retailer, and that retailer has a warranty from the wholesaler, which he produces to show that he is not the person to blame, I apprehend the local authority will be able to go to the wholesaler.

MR. LONG: No, they will not.

MR. RADCLIFFE COOKE: Then, as I understand, the wholesale man will always escape. I think some provision ought to be put into the Bill to the effect that the retailer has absolved himself from blame if he can succeed in throwing it upon the wholesaler. I think that the Bill, at all events, should reach the producer.

*SIR JOHN LENG: When I addressed the House before I said I was strongly against fraudulent dealing, and that being so I regret that the representative

of the Government has not given us any measure by which we can deal with the big rogue instead of dealing with the small one in detail. I am not a lawyer, but I think this Amendment is necessary to bring the great rascal within the meshes of this Bill. The making of margarine like butter is not done by the retailer, it is done by the manufacturer at the request of the large dealers. If you want to stop this rascality, stop it at the fountain head. Deal with the men who are really the initiators, and who are the large scoundrels. To allow a man who makes large contracts, and deals with hundreds and thousands of tons at a very large profit, to escape, and to come on the poor little shopkeepers in the back streets and to expose them to all the penalties of this Act does not seem to be just as between man and man. Whilst the Bill stands in this way we merely pretend to deal with adulteration. This Bill will result in hundreds of prosecutions against poor people, whilst men making their fortunes are allowed to escape. If this Amendment is not sufficient to meet the purpose, I hope some Amendment will be moved which will have the effect desired.

MR. LONG: I think the hon. Gentleman and my hon. friend behind me entirely misapprehend the question we are discussing. The first part of the Amendment is unnecessary, because it is covered by the Act of 1875. The wholesaler being exposed to a prosecution by a retailer, it is not a case of the big rogue escaping, as has been described. But apart altogether from that, the Amendment is altogether impracticable; and, that being so, I trust it may be rejected.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER: The precaution which is provided by the law at present is a precaution of which the small retailer cannot avail himself. Cases have often been brought before me of great suffering and hardship on the part of small shopkeepers, not through their own fault, but through that of the manufacturers who supply them with goods. We want by this Bill to get at those individuals. A little dealer is very often hauled up and fined for selling an article of which he could not know the composition. An illustration has been given with regard to beet syrup having been sold as pure cane

syrup. If a warranty had been supplied for pure cane syrup the retailer would have escaped, and rightly, but he could not if the description was only on the label, under the law as it at present stands. I think some Amendment should be accepted which would get rid of this hardship on the small tradespeople.

MR. PICKERSGILL said he thought the clause had been dealt with in too technical a manner. What was required was to deal more stringently with the manufacturers of margarine and other products.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: It is the wholesale dealers who make large fortunes, probably by adulteration. The retail dealer does not know anything of the transactions, and does not know the meaning of the word margarine, and the fact that the wholesalers deal in hundred-weights instead of pounds is not an insuperable difficulty against bringing them under this Act, as is shown by Section 19 introduced by the Committee upstairs. I should like to ask the Government whether they could not put in a specific clause providing that where the retailer shows that he is not responsible for the adulteration a prosecution with respect to that adulteration should lie against the wholesale dealer.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I would ask the Government, as a supporter of this Bill, either to accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for the Bridgton Division, or the more practical suggestion of the hon. Member for Mid Glamorgan. I should wish to put before the House the most important evidence given by Mr. Lovell, a most able witness and one of the largest men in the trade, before the Select Committee with reference to the system of fraud carried out by the wholesale dealers. Mr. Lovell stated that he would produce one witness who had been solicited to buy a machine for mixing margarine with butter, on account of the enormous profits that can be made, and another "responsible witness who will tell you that a manufacturer of these mixtures had solicited him to sell the mixtures and told him they are so much like butter that you can sell them with impunity, and if you are fined, I will pay all expenses."

MR. DUCKWORTH (Lancashire, Middleton): This Amendment is much more important than some hon. Gentlemen would imagine. So far as the large retailer is concerned he is all right; he can make his bargain with the wholesale dealer and get his warranty; but the small retailers do business with a wholesale man, and are on his books, as it is called, and they have to bear the brunt. They are not in a position to demand a warranty, so that when they are prosecuted the wholesale dealer escapes. That is the way in which this measure acts, and it would be well, if possible, to bring these large wholesale dealers within the operation of the Bill.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow Camlachie): Supposing a sample is taken from a retail shop, and is found to be grossly adulterated, the law demands that somebody must be punished, and the authorities proceed against the shopkeeper. He makes a defence, not that the goods are not adulterated, but that, if they are, proceedings should be taken against the man who adulterated them. In that case I think the authorities should be bound to proceed against the wholesale dealer. Therefore, I hope the Government will accept this Amendment.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 75 ; Noes, 175. (Division List, No. 273.)

AYES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
Barlow, John Emmott
Billson, Alfred
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis All-ton
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Clough, Walter Owen
Colville, John
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Ever-hed, Sydney
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton
Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Leng, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Maclean, James Mackenzie
McCrae, George
Maddison, Fred.
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Oldroyd, Mark
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)

Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
Rickett, J. Compton
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Schwann, Charles E.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thomas Courtney T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Nott.)
Wills, Sir William Henry
Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Charles Cameron and
Mr. Pickersgill.

NOES

Abraham, W. (Cork, N.E.)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. S. (Hunts.)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Biddulph, Michael
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-

Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge

Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man's)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert B.
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher

Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fry, Lewis
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hon. V. (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Godson, Sir A. Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St Geo's.)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Kenyon, James
 Keayon-Slaney, Col. William
 Kilbride, Denis
 Kimber, Henry
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Llewelyn, Sir D. (Swansea)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine

Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowlea, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macaliecee, Daniel
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 Maciver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 McKillop, James
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morris, Samuel
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. W. (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp

Power, Patrick Joseph
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edinburgh)
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. (Stalybridge)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Orunskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlins-n, W. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Whiteley, H (Ashton-u.-Lyne
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestershr. N
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON : I beg to move the new clause standing on the Paper in my name. One of the most frequent causes of friction in the present Act has been the conflict between public analysts and the Government laboratory at Somerset House. In many cases the public analysts were probably too anxious to secure a conviction, whereas, on the other hand, the analysts at Somerset House were generally anxious to give the accused the benefit of the doubt. Somerset House set up a standard which was found grave fault with by public analysts. The Society of Public Analysts have again and again censured in the most vigorous terms Somerset House, and Somerset House has spoken very disrespectfully of the proceedings of many of the public analysts. That renders it necessary that there should be some board set up to get rid of that friction. The question of standards is one of the most important. If you set up low standards those low standards will be worked down to. The

Select Committee recommended that standards should be set up by a department constituted in the manner proposed in this clause. Standards must vary from time to time. Improvements are introduced in the manufacture, new facts transpire, and new articles are brought into use, and it is necessary that the standards should be dealt with as changes arise. The composition of the Standing Committee of Reference on Food Standards is that proposed by the Select Committee which sat on the question of adulteration. But the composition is really a matter of secondary importance. What I urge is the appointment of some such Committee.

New clause :—

“(1) The Local Government Board shall appoint a Standing Committee of Reference on Food Standards to be composed as follows:—Each of the following bodies—that is to say, the Society of Public Analysts, the General Medical Council, the Institute of Chemistry, and the Pharmaceutical Society—shall name a representative, and the Local Government

Board shall, if it think fit, appoint such nominee to be a Member of the Standing Committee of Reference on Food Standards. But if the Local Government Board object to any person so nominated, it may require any of the bodies aforesaid to nominate three persons, from whom the Local Government Board shall select one as the representative of that body on the said Standing Committee. The principal officer of the Government Laboratory at Somerset House shall, ex-officio, be a member of the said Committee. The Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture shall each nominate one representative, and the Board of Trade shall nominate two members engaged in commerce. And the said Standing Committee shall, after such notice and such inquiry as they shall think fit, be empowered to make such orders as they from time to time think proper respecting standards of the quality and purity of food and drugs, and to determine what deficiency of the normal contents of any article of food or drug, or what addition of extraneous matter, or what proportion of water in any article of food or drug shall raise a presumption, until the contrary is proved, that the article in question is not genuine or is injurious to health, and such orders, if and when they have been confirmed by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, shall have the force of law. Provided always, that in any case where a standard of the quality or purity of any article of food or drugs is prescribed by Statute this section shall not apply.

"(2) The members of the Standing Committee of Reference on Food Standards shall be remunerated for their services out of moneys to be provided by Parliament on such a scale as the Treasury may determine. The Local Government Board shall nominate a member of the Committee to act as chairman, three shall form a quorum, and the chairman shall have a casting but not a deliberative vote."—(*Sir Charles Cameron.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
"That the clause be read a second time."

MR. LONG: I hope the House will not adopt the clause. It is true the Select Committee recommended the appointment of a committee of reference to arrive at a standard of purity. That recommendation was one the Government found it impossible to give effect to. In the first place, although it is here made a condition that the sanction of the Secretary of State shall be obtained before the decision have the effect of law, yet the result of the scheme would be that the responsibility which now rests upon a Government Department would be devolved upon an altogether independent body of experts. That is fundamentally wrong as regards the duty of Government Departments to control the work affect-

Sir Charles Cameron.

ing those Departments. The hon. Baronet proposes that the appointment of this committee should rest with the Local Government Board. Speaking for my Department, I should be perfectly content that that should be so, as I am perfectly confident that they would have full regard to the interests of the industry with which my Department is concerned. But this committee of reference would probably have to come to decisions upon many articles of food which are mainly concerned with agriculture. I think it would lead to confusion if the Local Government Board were called upon to appoint the committee, and might gravely affect the future interests of the agricultural industry. Take the case of butter, for instance. It would be quite easy for a committee of this sort to proceed to work with the fullest intention to do their duty, and yet arrive at a conclusion which might ruin a third or a half of the dairy agriculturists in the country. If that is the case, I think it is a reason against giving such large powers to an independent expert authority free from the control of any Government Department. The clause we suggest does not fully carry out the recommendations of the committee, and perhaps it may be said that it does not entirely meet the requirements of the public, but it is a compromise upon a difficult and complicated question, and if loyally carried out will give effect to the greater part of the wishes which have been expressed by those interested in the agricultural industry, and by those who are anxious that there should be some understood line as to what is pure and what is impure. I therefore hope the House will not accept this proposed clause, but will later on agree to the clause we suggest.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: Is it intended that the committee should be statutory? There is no reference to it in the Bill whatever.

MR. LONG: A similar question was asked upstairs, but it is obvious that a statutory committee for this purpose would be ridiculous. The work of the committee, the articles of food to be considered, the committee itself, would all vary from time to time. One object is to get the assistance of men of expert and practical knowledge, so that wise advice should be given to the country upon this particular subject.

MR. KEARLEY: A great deal depends upon the constitution of the committee. With regard to the claim that the Board of Agriculture is entitled to have the control of this committee because particular questions to be discussed would refer to agricultural produce, I would remind the House that the right hon. Gentleman himself has an Amendment on the Paper to extend the inquiry of this committee to other articles of food. That enlarges the scope enormously, and makes it a very serious question to consider. We are absolutely agreed there should be some committee set up to deal with standards of purity, but a body composed of officials from Somerset House would not satisfy the trade of the country. If the right hon. Gentleman will give an assurance that it shall be a committee which will thoroughly go into the question, and not be confined or constrained, I do not think it matters very much who controls it, whether it be Somerset House, the Local Government Board, or the Board of Agriculture.

MR. LOWLES (Shoreditch, Haggerston): I hope the House will reject the proposed clause. To my mind we have the most complete safeguards in the analysts at Somerset House, and no committee, however constituted, would be so satisfactory. There has been no charge made against the technical knowledge, impartiality, or skill of those officials; their decisions are perfectly impartial, the officials are men of the highest possible practical skill, and I venture to say that the Bill as it stands will provide the greatest possible safeguards both for the public and for the retail dealer. There is a danger that local analysts may be subject to local prejudice, being paid by the local authority, and it would be a pity to disturb an arrangement by which the disputed samples must be referred to the analyst at Somerset House by calling in a great number of outside experts, the only result of which would be to get a number of contradictory opinions. I hope the Government will as far as possible leave the decision of these vexed questions in the hands of those experts whose training, knowledge, and admitted impartiality have inspired confidence throughout the length and breadth of the country.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) The power which Clause 4 proposes to confer upon the Board of Agriculture is a very large one. It is suggested that they should have power to set up these standards after such inquiry as they think fit, while the names of the gentlemen who are to compose the committee are not given; but I imagine it is intended that they should be experts who will command the confidence of the public. The right hon. Gentleman who opposed this Amendment has stated that the Government could not agree to the appointment of any committee which would be independent of the control of the Government. But that is not the proposition before the House. As I understand, my hon. friend moves that the Local Government Board shall appoint a committee of experts. If the Local Government Board appoint them it is perfectly clear that those experts would not be outside the control of the Government for the time being. But there is a much more important fact. The right hon. Gentleman stated that he could not accept the standards which might be fixed by gentlemen whose opinions might vary very much. But in point of fact at present we have no standard with regard to the purity of food. Surely if you are going to pass an Act which will impose penalties of a very serious character upon people who supply the mass of the nation with their food articles, it is a desirable thing that those people should at least have some standard of purity before their eyes by means of which they may know whether they are complying with the law or offending against it. That is the whole gist of the Amendment, and I must say it is certainly drawing very largely upon the confidence of this House for the right hon. Gentleman to ask us to give to the Board of Agriculture—which, no doubt, is a very respectable body—such enormous power as to settle by mere reference which will satisfy them standards of purity in respect of every article of food that may be affected throughout the whole of the country. There is much more to be said in favour of this clause as against that of the Government—

MR. LONG: On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order in discussing Clause 4, which is a clause in the Bill, and deals with an altogether different

body, upon a motion of the hon. Baronet opposite to create a distinct body of experts for a different purpose altogether?

*MR. SPEAKER: It would not be in order to discuss that clause, but I understand the contention to be that this is an alternative proposal to Clause 4.

MR. HEDDERWICK: So I understand it. My remarks were perfectly applicable to the proposal before the House, and gather additional force when one refers to Clause 4, to which, indeed, the whole Amendment has special reference.

MR. RADCLIFFE COOKE: It is extremely probable that if the committee is appointed by the Board of Agriculture it will consist of many of the very persons who would compose the committee suggested by the proposed new clause.

MR. HEDDERWICK: Clause 4 proposes no committee at all; it merely says "after inquiry."

MR. RADCLIFFE COOKE: It is not the duty of these officials to establish standards; their duty is to see whether the article is or is not adulterated, and in what way it is adulterated. It is clear there must be some authority to undertake the duty of setting up standards. So far as I understand the right hon. Gentleman, that authority will be constituted by the Board of Agriculture, and that is an arrangement which I think will work satisfactorily.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): It seems to me there are two points raised by the motion of the hon. Baronet. His proposal and that of the right hon. Gentleman agree that there ought to be some kind of standard set up. The hon. Baronet proposes a definite standard fixed by a definite body, whereas it is proposed in the Bill to determine not a standard of purity but a standard of deficiency. The hon. Baronet proposes that the standard should be fixed by the Local Government Board, and we have therefore got to consider first whether it could be better done by that Board or by the Board of Agriculture. I, like the hon. Baronet, am in favour of the Local Government Board, and I am for com-

plete standards. I am glad that by a recent decision of the Courts the analyst must now show not only the percentage of water in milk but also the fatty matter and the ordinary solids it contains. The result will be, however, as has happened on several occasions, that Somerset House will have one standard, and the local analyst another, for water, solids, and fatty matter, and a third analyst selected by the accused person may have a third standard altogether. Therefore we have got competing standards as well as competing analysts. The question we have to decide now is what Department ought to have charge of analyses in connection with this Act. The inspection and control will still remain with the Local Government Board, and the proper functionary is, therefore, the President of the Local Government Board. For is not the work given by Parliament to the local authorities responsible to that Board? Again, shall we take standards for every class of food, or only for the four articles mentioned in the Bill? I think we ought to have a standard for every class of food, and that we ought to determine the amount of starch to be allowed in cocoa, as well as the quantity of water to be allowed in milk. We ought also to protect drugs in the same way, because oftentimes adulterated drugs cause a great number of premature deaths. What we have to do is to appoint a proper body to determine a standard for every form of food, and when any question comes before a magistrate he can refer to the particular standard concerned. If the proposal of the hon. Baronet is carried, we shall have a board composed of the chief men in special departments whose opinion is worth having, instead of a board advised by whom we do not know—perhaps even by Somerset House. But these questions ought to be treated from a physiological and pathological standpoint, of which the analysts at Somerset House know nothing. They should not be determined by a mere board of chemists, but by a board which knows the physiological effect of what it is doing. Can Somerset House determine whether a particular food is injurious or not? At the present moment, some medical men will tell you that boracic acid is not more injurious than common salt. Others will tell you that it is dangerous for children, and that under certain conditions it ought not to

Mr. Long.

be used, and that it has a different pathological action in childhood and old age. Are all these questions to be decided by the President of the Board of Agriculture, advised by someone we know nothing about? On the other hand, the hon. Baronet proposes that the board should consist of the leading authorities in special departments. We have got to determine whether these standards shall be established by men competent to do so, and who possess the confidence of the public, or by an unknown departmental committee. We think in this Bill you are going to propitiate the agricultural interests by something in the nature of protection. You are going to reserve the fixing of standards in these four things to the Minister of Agriculture. I think that is a great mistake. The control of the Food and Drugs Act will remain in the future, as in the past, with the local bodies acting under the direction of the Local Government Board, and if the Bill remains as it is, you will in future have these local authorities taking, as regards these four articles of food, their orders from the Board of Agriculture, and their orders with regard to every other article of food from the Local Government Board. I hope the House will support the hon. Baronet. If his motion is carried, we shall have standards set up by competent men who obtained their positions by virtue of their abilities, and have not been appointed from different motives altogether. I shall strongly support the motion of the hon. Baronet. I entirely disagree with the inadequate compromise in Clause 4, and, as all prosecutions are carried out by the officers of the local authorities who are responsible to the Local Government Board, I think that that Board should control this matter.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.): What are the main articles that affect the public health? First of all, milk—that is the most important; and, secondly, butter. These are the two articles which are constantly before the courts—more especially milk, though very frequently the question of water in butter arises. These two articles affect the Board of Agriculture more than the Local Government Board. In fact, the Local Government Board has nothing to do with them, and surely the Board of

Agriculture is the proper body to set up standards affecting them. Sometimes a prosecution takes place affecting mustard, ginger, or cocoa, and these questions are more germane to the Local Government Board than to the Board of Agriculture, and it is proposed to retain them with the Local Government Board. But as regards milk and butter, the Board of Agriculture is constantly dealing with them, and is much better fitted to have control of the committee fixing their standards. It has been said that the inspectors of the local authorities are under the Local Government Board, but they are also under the Board of Agriculture in some matters, notably the Diseases of Animals Act. I think the Amendment seeks to put new duties on the Local Government Board which it ought not to be asked to undertake, as it has quite sufficient work as it is.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): It is perfectly clear that there is no difference between the two sides of the House as to the end they wish to achieve. The President of the Board of Agriculture has one method of attaining that end, and the hon. Baronet has another. But it is agreed that ultimately skilled advice must be taken, and as a matter of fact some skilled advice is taken under each method. I do not think the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill is quite fair to the Amendment. The essential difference between the two sides of the House is that, whereas the right hon. Gentleman and the Government think that this matter should be placed under the Board of Agriculture, we would prefer the Local Government Board, because, of course, that is the gist of the clause which the hon. Baronet proposes. The right hon. Gentleman said that this committee would be largely beyond the control of Government Departments, but I do not think that is a fair criticism, because the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture will nominate one member each, and the Board of Trade two members, so that Government Departments would largely control the constitution of the committee. In my humble opinion, the Board of Agriculture should not have charge of this matter. Not only are the Government throwing over the principle which governed previous Adulteration Acts, but they are throwing over also their own clause in the Bill, which states

that "the Local Government Board may, in relation to any matter appearing to affect the general interests of the consumer, direct," &c. What we are dealing with in this Bill is the general interest of the consumer. That is the object of this legislation. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board has said that this matter of standards would be more germane to the Board of Agriculture, because the articles chiefly dealt with will be milk and butter. That is all very well, but as a matter of fact the importance of milk as an article of food is greater to the consumer than the agriculturist, and the sanction for all this kind of legislation is that we are bound to take precautions to prevent anything being done which would be injurious to the health of the consumer. This is not only the principle which has governed past legislation, but it has also been embodied in the Bill of the Government. No matter what precautions we may take, by the very fact of entrusting the administration of the Act in this particular to a Department which goes by the name of Board of Agriculture, we inevitably incur a very grave and serious risk that the interests of agriculture will be put more prominently forward than the interests of the consumer. It would be far more intelligible if the Government accepted the principle of past legislation, and put this matter under the control of the Local Government Board.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, South): It is impossible to regard this motion as an alternative to the proposal of the Government contained in Clause 4. The substantial difference between the two is that the hon. Baronet desires to retain this matter in the control of the Local Government Board, whereas the Government desire to hand it over to the Board of Agriculture. In the next place, the new clause would make the committee which is to regulate these standards—which would not be absolute but approximate standards—a much more influential and important body than any that could be appointed by the President of the Board of Agriculture. The proposal of my hon. friend proceeds on the lines of the Report of the Committee which examined this matter with great care, and which reported strongly in favour of an influential committee of this kind. It is true that it did not pro-

pose to make it a statutory committee in quite the same sense as the new clause would make it, but that is a matter on which amendment is possible if the clause is read a second time. We come to the question then whether the plan of the hon. Baronet is not a better plan than that of the Government. A *prima facie* case has clearly been made out for the Local Government Board, because it is in possession of the field, not so much in connection with these four particular articles, but with respect to all matters respecting public health which ought to be worked out by the local authorities now supervised by the Local Government Board. The Local Government Board has charge of the health of the people, and has a scientific and competent staff, and therefore legislation and administration as far as it has gone is favourable to the proposition that the Local Government Board should have control in this matter. What is the answer made by the Government? It is that the Board of Agriculture is concerned with dairying; that dairying produces milk and butter; and that therefore the Board of Agriculture is the proper body to fix standards. But surely that rests on the patent fallacy that the man who makes milk and butter is the man who knows best what milk and butter ought to be. The fixing of standard is not a matter for the dairyman. It is a very difficult matter of science, which requires the utmost skill and experience on the part of practical analysts and of those who have devoted their whole lives to the study of chemistry. The Board of Agriculture appears to me to be a very ambitious body. It looks out for work as if it had not enough work to do. I would suggest that it has a good deal of work to do, in its own proper sphere, in endeavouring to induce the farmers of this country to adopt better methods and to bring their dairying up to the Continental level. For it to undertake this branch of chemistry is, however, to enter into a new field altogether unsuited to it, and without its having any proper staff. That part of the answer of the Government therefore entirely falls to the ground, and I am obliged to conclude that the Local Government Board, possessing as it does scientific knowledge and authority over the local authorities, is much more qualified to carry out this duty than the Board of Agriculture. I do not say that the new clause cannot be improved, and

Captain Sinclair.

I have no doubt we shall be able to improve it if it is read a second time ; but on the main question I have no doubt that the Local Government Board is the proper authority.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY : The right hon. Gentleman has an Amendment down to Clause 4 which materially extends it, and in a manner not contemplated by the Committee upstairs.

MR. LONG : Since the Amendment has been placed on the Paper it has been found that it goes farther than I had intended. It is, therefore, my intention not to move it.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY : The wisest course would be to reject the new clause of the hon. Baronet, with a view also to the rejection of the extension of the clause which the right hon. Gentleman has put down. I do not think anyone will object to Clause 4 as it stands. I am quite willing to entrust the appointment of a committee to deal with standards to the Board of Agriculture, but we should not entrust the Board of Agriculture with power to appoint a committee enjoying a roving commission to deal with all food products. Let the Board of Agriculture limit itself to dealing with agricultural products in which it has expert knowledge. When, however, we come to deal with all food products, then I quite agree with the hon. Baronet, that it is more desirable that these matters should be in the hands of the Local Government Board and in the hands of scientists to be appointed by that Board. I venture to suggest that under the circumstances the clause might be withdrawn.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS : This Bill is, or ought to be, a Bill to protect the consumer against adulteration. We have nothing to do whether or not it is injurious to the agricultural interest. This question has descended into a contest between the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture. Clause 4 deals with milk, cream, butter, and cheese. Now, what we want the Board of Agriculture for is, in order to determine what is milk, cream, butter, or cheese. Personally, I should prefer the President of the Board of Agriculture to choose my milk, cream, butter, and cheese, rather than the President of

the Local Government Board. But is there any difficulty in saying what is genuine milk ? As I understand it, genuine milk is milk that comes from the cow. You do not require analysts from Somerset House, or an Agricultural Committee, to tell you what milk is. Milk from one animal may be weaker than milk from another ; but both are genuine milk, and so far as I know there has been no difficulty in deciding what is milk or what is butter. The other day I had the pleasure of cross-examining Dr. Stevenson from Somerset House in a County Council case, and he said he would not mind swearing that there was a certain proportion of boracic acid in a certain sample of butter, and that he would not object to eating it. That is all very well, but the question is whether boracic acid is injurious to children, and not whether it can be stomached by any great man from Somerset House. If you buy a pound of butter, you buy sixteen ounces of what you understand to be butter. You do not buy fourteen or fifteen ounces of butter, and the other one or two ounces of boracic acid. I think our foods at the present moment are in the hands of the policeman. The policeman is appointed by the local authority, and the local authority is under the Local Government Board. What we have to do is to see that there are facilities for prosecuting those who sell adulterated food. And what is adulterated food is perfectly easy to ascertain at the present moment. On the whole I think that the Local Government Board is better able to deal with the matter than the Board of Agriculture.

***MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) :** I cannot agree that it is so very easy to say whether these articles are adulterated or not. My experience, I confess, has been that it is almost impossible to obtain a conviction under the Foods and Drugs Act of 1875, and subsequent Acts. Different standards of purity are put forward. In some cases, for instance, the authorities were satisfied that 17 per cent. of water in milk was not adulteration, and in other cases they said that milk with 22 per cent. of water was very good milk. It is not so easy to decide genuine milk from milk which has been described by the poet as "sky blue." If the question goes to a Division I shall vote with the hon. Baronet the Member for the Bridgeton Division of Glasgow. It is, in my

opinion, quite immaterial whether the nomination of a Standing Committee should rest with the Local Government Board or the Board of Agriculture. Both are excellent, but *prima facie* neither of them is the best judge as to what the fixed standard should be. I have always understood that there is a great distinction between agriculture and mere dairying; and therefore the argument put forward by one hon. and learned Member seems to me to completely subvert the etymology and the ordinary meaning of words. Why the Board of Agriculture should know more of the quality of milk and butter than the Local Government Board I cannot understand. I wish to state the reason why I prefer the clause of the hon. Member for Bridgeton to that suggested by the right hon. Gentleman opposite. The gist of the clause is, that there should be a fixed standard, and that the standard should be settled by a body in whom the public would have confidence—a standard which would be binding on every tribunal, and which no faddist could get out of. Now, such a standard is set up by the clause in question, because the Standing Committee mentioned in the clause is selected by scientific bodies in whom the public have the greatest confidence, such as the General Medical Council, the Institute of Chemistry, the Society of Public Analysts, and the Pharmaceutical Society. Each of these should name a representative, and the Local Government Board shall, if it think fit, appoint such nominee to be a member of the Standing Committee of Reference on Food Standards. Then the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture will nominate one representative each, and the Board of Trade two. There are thus a great variety of appointing bodies, and all the men selected

will be men of the greatest scientific knowledge and will all be independent of each other. If there is such a thing as infallibility, a Committee so composed would have it. It is quite immaterial whether such a Standing Committee should be under the Board of Agriculture or under the Local Government Board; the Committee itself is the thing. As under the existing law the Local Government Board has the administration of the present Adulteration Acts, the onus lies on the right hon. Gentleman opposite to show why the administration of the new Act should be taken out of the hands of the Local Government Board, and transferred to the Board of Agriculture.

MR. KILBRIDE: I was somewhat disappointed that the Secretary to the Local Government Board gave the House very little light as to what was meant by Clause 4. That clause is extremely indefinite. Under the Amendment of the hon. Member for Bridgeton, we know exactly the composition of the body to be set up to determine the standard; but under the Bill as it stands, neither the Secretary to the Local Government Board nor the President of the Board of Agriculture has given us the slightest idea as to what they are going to do. The fullest extent to which they have gone is that they say they will consult with experts and practical men in the trade. On account of that indefiniteness I shall be compelled to vote for the Amendment of the hon. Member for Bridgeton.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 84 ; Noes, 194. (Division List, No. 274.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allison, Robert Andrew
Asher, Alexander
Bainbridge, Emerson
Barlow, John Emmott
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Colville, John

Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Evershed, Sydney
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton

Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
Hempill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
Joycey, Sir James
Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kinloch, Sir J. George Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Leng, Sir John

Mr. Hemphill.

Lorne, Marquess of
Lough, Thomas
Macaleese, Daniel
McCrae, George
Maddison, Fred.
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morris, Samuel
Morton, Ed. J. C. (Devonport)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Oldroyd, Mark
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
Rickett, J. Compton
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
Schwann, Charles E.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Strachey, Edward

Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Charles Cameron and
Mr. Hedderwick.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitz Roy
Balcarras, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch's)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burns, John
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Bir.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir Jno. Chas. Ready
Colston, Charles E. H. Athole
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Cornwallis, Fienne Stanley W.
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Man' r)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-

FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrell
Giliat, John Saunders
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wed'bury)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gull, Sir Cameron
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hardy, Laurence
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, Henry
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Howard, Joseph
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lafone, Alfred
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverp'l)

Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowles, John
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacIure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John T.
Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. F. (Monmouthsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William George
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, G. Wm. (Reading)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Steadman, William Charles
Stock, James Henry

Strauss, Arthur
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollmache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount

Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart

Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. KEARLEY: The object of the new clause standing in my name is to give to inspectors the power to visit the premises of manufacturers and various places where food products may be adulterated, such as stores, factories, quays, ships, and so on. So far as we have gone, I do not think there are sufficient powers of inspection in the Bill. Most useful provisions have been introduced into the Bill which will give the Board of Agriculture power for the inspection of foods and drugs during manufacture. We have also gone a step forward in the direction of detecting those who are pre-eminently guilty of fraud in sale. There is an intermediate stage which I propose to cover by my new clause. When goods are in the possession of manufacturers, or merchants, or are in transit by ship or rail, or are stored in the city, there is no power whatever of inspecting them under the present law. I remember some years ago a parcel of ginger which had been exhausted—that is, the extract had been made from it, and only the residuum was left—was offered for public sale as genuine ginger. It was a matter of notoriety among the brokers in Mincing Lane, but there was no power to confiscate these goods, or to bring forward a prosecution against the sellers. I believe that the bulk of the adulteration takes place at the retail businesses, but there is no use shutting our eyes to the fact that there are cases where the manufacturer or the merchant sends out adulterated goods for which he does not suffer the penalty of the law. He is perfectly confident that, when the goods have once left his possession, he will never be called to account. Under Sub-section (b) of this new clause of mine, I propose that the inspector shall have power to purchase, seize, or procure samples of any food or drugs at the time of delivery, or at any railway station or other place during transit, or upon the premises of or elsewhere in the possession of any person for the purpose of carriage. These powers already apply to milk and margarine, and I think it would be

desirable, when we are legislating upon this question, that we should introduce powers into this Bill for inspectors to take samples of goods during transit. It has been suggested that the retailer who takes goods about the country in his cart is perfectly safe, and consequently is not very particular whether the goods he carries about are pure or impure. This clause will apply to goods distributed in this way. I may say that I have not the faintest desire, in introducing this clause, to harass retailers in any way, but I believe this will be a most useful provision. The Salford and Manchester authorities, who have done more than any others to stamp out milk adulteration, have found this power a most valuable weapon in their hands, and it has been so thoroughly beneficial in that respect that I cannot see what objection the right hon. Gentleman can have to extend the powers as I seek to do by the clause I propose.

New clause :—

" Any inspector appointed by any local authority, or by the Local Government Board, under this Act, shall have power—(a) at all reasonable times to enter any public or private sale-room occupied or used by merchants, brokers, wholesale dealers, or other persons, and to any public or private warehouse, factory, store, quay, ship, or barge where food or drugs are offered for sale or deposited for the purpose of sale or carriage, and to purchase, seize, or procure samples of any such food or drugs; (b) to purchase, seize, or procure samples of any food or drugs at the time of delivery, or at any railway station or other place during transit, or upon the premises of or elsewhere in the possession of any person for the purpose of carriage."—(*Mr. Kearley.*)

brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed,
 "That the clause be read a second time."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I hope that the hon. Gentleman will not press the clause to a Division. The House has rejected the proposal of the hon. Baronet the Member for Bridgeton, that inspectors should have power to enter premises

where goods are sold by wholesale, and purchase samples for analysis, and the present proposal goes even farther, for it proposes to issue letters of marque to the inspector "to purchase, seize, or procure." The whole clause is high-handed and too arbitrary in its terms, however much we may sympathise with the objects of the hon. Member.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have listened with some surprise to the line taken by the learned Solicitor-General in the remarks he has just made. He has suggested that the clause moved by the hon. Member for Devonport, who knows a great deal about this question, and to whom the House is indebted for much patient and persistent work on the Grand Committee, is an arbitrary one. I support the Amendment for this reason, and I will give two illustrations. The other day a celebrated grocer—or rather half-grocer and half-philanthropist—had seized upon his premises 640 tubs of putrid fruit, and the Vestry of Bermondsey took away thirteen dust carts full of rotten strawberries, raspberries, and other things. The sanitary authority did that to prevent a sanitary nuisance, and it seems to me that what the sanitary authority did to prevent a nuisance the Board of Agriculture ought to do to protect food and to prevent adulteration. Well, does the learned Solicitor-General contend that inspectors under the Food and Drugs Act ought not to have the power to inspect food at any reasonable or unreasonable time, so as to prevent the public being defrauded in this way by adulterated food? Let us take another instance. In the very same sanitary district, some three or four months ago, the same vestry, to prevent a nuisance, seized many hundred-weights of putrid livers and kidneys that were going to be manufactured into *pâté de foie gras*. I am extremely interested in preventing the upper classes from being contaminated by an impure food supply, and I therefore hold that an inspector under this Act should have the power to go into a factory at Bermondsey and prevent the consumer being defrauded by the sale of impure food. If the learned Solicitor-General says it is too high-handed a proceeding for an inspector to be allowed to go into a factory where butter is being mixed with margarine, or vice versa, I can only say that he will never stop the

sale of adulterated or of impure food until the inspector has the widest and most drastic power of going to the source of adulteration, and of sending the manufacturer in very serious cases to prison. I would appeal to the Solicitor-General to say that this adulteration has reached such a scandalous stage in London that the time has arrived when it should be stopped. I can give the House an instance of the extent to which it has gone. I hold in my hand the quarterly report of the Vestry of Battersea, and these are some instances of the extent to which butter is adulterated with margarine:—"A had 96 per cent. of margarine; B, 95; C, 88; B, 87; E, 83; and F, 77," etc. I submit that it is not unreasonable for the House of Commons to enact that where this kind of thing is suspected the inspector, at all hours of the day and night, should be able to go and prevent it, or at least attempt to find it out. The Solicitor-General tells us that it is a high-handed proceeding. It is the kind of high-handed proceeding which is wanted to stop adulteration, and I believe that if stiff penalties were imposed and inspection at any time held *in terrorem* over the heads of the miscreants the dangers of their conniving at adulteration and the manufacture of improper foods would be very largely prevented.

MR. HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.): I think the hon. Member for Battersea is quite right in saying that there is a good reason for inspecting the margarine factories. But I wish to point out to the House that there is already a provision enabling any officer of the Board of Agriculture to enter a margarine factory at all reasonable times, inspect the process of manufacture and take samples. Surely that is a much better provision than one that would give power to a local inspector, and the ordinary trader would much prefer the visits of an inspector of a Government Department, like the Board of Agriculture, to those of a local inspector.

MR. HEDDERWICK: I think the hon. Member who has just addressed the House takes an exaggerated view of the provision to which he has alluded, because, in point of fact, the inspector of the Board of Agriculture only makes a visit when it is rendered necessary by the default of the local authorities. (Minis-

terial cries of "No.") Even assuming that I am wrong in that respect, what we want is not only the inspection of margarine factories or small shops, but inspection everywhere where goods are sold, whether by retail or wholesale. But have the Government really at heart the prevention of adulteration? If so, I cannot understand why they should decline to accept this Amendment. If their object is only to protect certain articles of agricultural produce, then I can understand their refusal to accept this Amendment. But if they really have at heart a desire to protect the consumer against adulteration, then I wholly fail to understand why they should refuse to give a properly appointed inspector power to inspect articles anywhere. I confess that the reply of the hon. and learned Solicitor-General took me by surprise, and I must say that I think he must have been carried away by that sense of humour for which he is so well known to the House, because he compared the powers which it is proposed to give to the inspector under this clause to "letters of marque." So far as I can understand, he wishes to lead the House to believe that this was an insidious proposal which would practically mean the ruin of trade. Upon what does he found so remarkable a statement? Apparently upon the words "to purchase, seize, or procure." Nobody knows better than the hon. and learned Solicitor-General that these are not words which have been created by my hon. friend, but they are statutory words already in use. There is, therefore, no invalidity in the introduction of these words into the clause.

*MR. DUCKWORTH was understood to say that dealers could serve a mixture of margarine and butter and deliver it to hotels and restaurants, companies, institutions, and large families, and there were no means of detecting the fraud.

*MR. PLATT-HIGGINS (Salford, N.) : I rise to support this Amendment, but for a different reason to those already advanced. There is an important association in my borough which complains, with a great deal of justice, that while local inspectors have power to take samples of milk, they have no power to go to the railway station where the milk is delivered by the farmer and take samples in order to test its condition

Mr. Hedderwick.

before it comes into the milk-seller's possession. I think it is only just that the milk of the farmer should be tested just as much as the milk of the retailer, and on that account I shall support the Amendment because it would give that power.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District) said he could not support the Amendment, because it appeared to him to be one of extreme generality, and one which might be used in a most oppressive way in regard to the trade of the country. He had noticed that nearly every illustration of a concrete kind that had been used that night had had some reference to either margarine, butter, or milk—in other words, to those very articles of food which, according to the original conception of the Bill, came under Part I. But this new clause, if it passed into law, would apply not only to those agricultural products, but to all kinds of articles of food. When the Bill passed its Second Reading it appeared to him to be a fairly reasonable and intelligent measure. Part I. gave new powers in regard to agricultural produce, and might be described as an extension of the Margarine Act of 1887. Part II. dealt with a totally different subject. It dealt with the amendment and extension of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875. The first part dealt with three articles of food which were well described as agricultural produce, but Part II. of the Bill then dealt with articles of food which included perfectly harmless and perfectly well-known mixtures, which were habitually sold and stamped in this country. The Bill as amended in Committee upstairs had, however, altered this form considerably, and it would still further alter the original conception of the Bill if these Amendments were carried by the House. To pass the clause which his hon. friend had proposed was to confer upon persons appointed by the local authorities powers which, he believed, had never been conferred upon any person appointed by any local authority.

*MR. J. H. JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham) : I merely rise to remind the Committee that at the present time it is possible to take samples of milk in course of delivery. I have considerable sympathy with the spirit and purport of this Amendment, but I feel unable to support

it in the form in which it has been placed on the Paper.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: This is a clause submitted for Second Reading, and if some of the words appear to be too drastic they can be modified when the clause is in Committee. It is no objection to the clause to say that some of the words go too far; that is a matter for Committee. The question is, what is the general principle involved in the clause. It is that the Bill should hit the wholesale dealer. It is objected that the clause goes further than the Act of 1875, but as far as I can see the only additional word is "seize." I am not sure that that word would not be necessary if the principle be accepted, because when you go to a warehouse you are not going to a place where food is sold retail; you therefore may not be able to purchase it, and it may be necessary to seize some of the food which you see there. What is the objection to a course of this kind? Suppose a retail dealer is found to be selling some article of food which is adulterated, but the inspector is perfectly satisfied that he is innocent, and that the article is being sold exactly as it came from the wholesale dealer, why should it not be possible to obtain the name of the wholesale dealer and seize the article at the wholesale premises in London, or wherever it may be? You will never be able to prevent adulterated food being sold to poor consumers as long as you confine the prosecutions to retail dealers. If it be the object of the Government to stop the adulteration of food, and to stop the sale of such things as may be injurious to the public, they will have to go to the fountain-head and attack it in the hands of the manufacturer or the wholesale dealer. The truth is that manufacturers who sell adulterated articles to innocent retail dealers actually profit by the fraud. It pays them to defend proceedings against the retail dealer, to pay the fine, and to take the whole of the pecuniary responsibility upon themselves, and go on manufacturing and selling these adulterated articles. But if once you prosecute the wholesale dealer and his name is published the retail sellers will not buy from him any more. In principle the clause has already been adopted in the case of margarine, and the House ought not to flinch from carrying this clause even though it is necessary to amend it

after Second Reading, if it is shown to the House, as I think it has been, that you cannot put a stop to adulteration until you hit the wholesale dealer.

DR. CLARK: The sole object of this proposal is to apply the same principle to the manufacturer and wholesale dealer as to the small seller. The hon. Member for East Somerset says that perhaps in London the inspectors will be gentlemen of position upon whom you can rely, but that in small country places there might be a great danger of the reverse being the case. As a matter of fact, the London County Council has no control whatever in the matter; that function belongs the Vestries, and instead of one general inspector there is an inspector for each of the various places. If you want to stop for the benefit of the public this system of adulteration, which defrauds and sometimes half poisons the people, the manufacturers and big wholesale houses ought equally with the retail dealers to come under the clauses of the Bill. In fact, you ought to protect the small retailer, who often unconsciously buys food or drugs which are adulterated, and through innocently buying a cheap parcel is condemned in costs and penalties, while the persons who extracted the genuine material go free. Take milk, for instance. There is very little milk goes direct from the farmer to the dairyman. It is conveyed through a middleman, from whom the dairyman buys it, and it is very often between the middleman and the farmer that the addition of the water or skimmed milk is made. Therefore all ought equally to come under the Act.

***SIR JOHN LENG:** I quite agree that it is desirable to have power to go to the sources of supply and all places of store; but when my hon. friend proposes this clause, which includes ships, barges, and railway stations, I think he is raising against his proposal very serious antagonism. The whole of the shipping industry and the whole of the railway companies would very seriously object to their business being liable to interruption at any moment—probably at very inopportune times—and the derangement of traffic, in which despatch is an essential element. I should not object to the clause if it were confined to sources of supply and places of store, but when you come to these places of transit you are stirring

up a hornets' nest, and very strong opposition will arise from very influential interests in the country.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) : I cannot understand this mania in the House for special legislation with regard to margarine, which, in my opinion, is one of the most excellent articles of food we possess. Can anyone tell me what distinction can be made between regulating the manufacture of margarine and regulating the manufacture of cocoa or baking powder or anything else ? If the right hon. Gentleman chooses to take the view that, having put into their own Bill—

MR. LONG : I beg the hon. Member's pardon. The words he is referring to were inserted by the Committee upstairs, against the wish of the Government.

MR. LABOUCHERE : The Committee upstairs has inserted the words, and the right hon. Gentleman has accepted them. He asks us to carry the Bill so amended, and yet he absolutely tells us that although he is ready to admit that the manufactories of margarine ought to be inspected—

MR. LONG : No, no !

MR. LABOUCHERE : Yes, it is in the Bill.

MR. LONG : I say this was forced down my throat.

MR. LABOUCHERE : That is just what we want to do in respect to this other clause. What I want to point out is that he himself proposes that the Bill should be carried a stage further in this House. Does he propose to cut out this clause ? No. He accepts it as part of the Bill ; and surely it is illogical and absurd to say that the inspectors may inspect the manufactories of margarine, and yet may not inspect the manufactories of cocoa and such-like articles.

MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) : The inspector proposed by the Government is to be an inspector appointed by the Board of Agriculture, which is a very different thing from being a local

inspector. I think this clause goes too far ; it will create great hostility to the Bill, and therefore I shall vote against it.

MR. KILBRIDE : Local inspectors have large powers at present for the purpose of taking samples. A milk-cart can be stopped along the street for the purpose of a sample being taken, and I see no reason why the same principle should not be applied to other foods. In the interests of the suppression of fraud and in the interests of fair dealing, I would ask the House to give the greatest possible power to the food inspectors.

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL (Stockton) : The hon. Member for Battersea referred to a case where the local inspector had visited a retail grocer's and had seized margarine which was being sold as butter. This clause, however, would not touch that case, because if the margarine was sold to the retail dealer as margarine, there is no reason why the wholesale dealer should be punished, and the power to visit the wholesale stores would not prevent the retail grocer selling the margarine as butter. The existing law is powerful enough to prevent fraud of that kind. In Durham the existing law is so carried out that the percentage of adulteration is absolutely *nil* with regard to the sale of butter and other foods, the only adulteration within the last two years having been in regard to milk, spirits and drugs. That shows that where the local authorities put the existing law into operation no grocer or provision dealer can afford to be punished thereunder. If the local authorities will not do their duty, the conferring of further power will not do away with the evil ; but if it is insisted that the local authorities should do their duty, the existing law is strong enough. The protection of the warranty will obviate the necessity of the inspectors going into these warehouses, and therefore I feel bound to vote against the clause.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 50 ; Noes, 177. (Division List, No. 275.)

AYES.

Allison, Robert Andrew
Asher, Alexander
Barlow, John Emmott

Sir John Leng.

Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James

Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)

Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gurdon, Sir William B.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.

Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jocey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kilbribe, Denis
 Labouchere, Henry
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Macalèse, Daniel
 McRae, George
 Maddison, Fred.
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Steadman, William Charles
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Kearley and Mr. Lambert.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitz Roy
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
 Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanarks)
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne

Fisher, William Hayes
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Kitson, Sir James
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lees, Sir E. (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leng, Sir John
 Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (L'pool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lough, Thomas
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison

Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maclean, James Mackenzie
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Killop, James
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milbank, Sir Powlett Chas. J.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hon. Fred (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Percy, Earl
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, J. H. Dudley
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, E. J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancashire)
 Stock, James Henry
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tonlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Wentworth, B. C. Vernon-

Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts).

Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George

Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Further consideration, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT
 (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.**

Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

**CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD
 (IRELAND) BILL.**

[SECOND READING].

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

DR. CLARK (Caithness): I think we ought to have some explanation from the Government as to the objects of the Bill. Four of the clauses are legislation by reference, and no one can tell what they mean. The fifth clause proposes that £25,000 shall come out of the Consolidated Fund for some purpose, and the sixth clause is the title of the Bill.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): This Bill is intended to facilitate the purchase of land, in order that it may be afterwards resold to the tenants. The first five clauses are all devoted to that object, and there is no ambiguity about them. The Irish Members, who are most interested in the Bill, are entirely satisfied with it.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I entreat my hon. friend not to oppose this Bill. There is absolute unanimity amongst the Irish Members in favour of it being passed, and it is a Bill which, in my opinion, will confer many benefits upon those with whom, I am sure, my hon. friend sympathises.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.): This Bill is very satisfactory to the Irish Members. It confers upon the Irish Congested Districts Board a considerable sum of money, and we are therefore fairly entitled to ask what the Government

propose to do in the case of the Congested Districts Board of Scotland. The circumstances are practically the same in both cases, and I submit we ought to have some explanation as to why the same assistance is not being given to Scotland.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

SUPPLY [7TH JULY].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS III.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £39,232, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries of the Law Officers' Department; the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury, Queen's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions; the Costs of Prosecutions, of other Legal Proceedings, and of Parliamentary Agency."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £23,200, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for certain Miscellaneous Legal Expenses, including a Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Incorporated Law Society."

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £206,527, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for such of the Salaries and Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £16,742, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge

which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Land Registry."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £29,714, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses connected with the County Courts."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £40,968, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries of the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police, and of the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District, the Pay and Expenses of Officers of Metropolitan Police employed on special duties, and the Salaries and Expenses of the Inspectors of Constabulary."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £415,161, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Prisons in England, Wales, and the Colonies."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £124,195, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expense of the Maintenance of Juvenile Offenders in Reformatory, Industrial, and Day Industrial Schools in Great Britain, and of the Inspectors of Reformatories."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £21,942, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics in the Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum."

Resolutions agreed to.

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SUPPLY (14th JULY).

Resolution reported.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS II.

"That a sum, not exceeding £8,858, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary for Scotland and Subordinate Offices."

Resolution agreed to.

METROPOLITAN POLICE [SALARIES].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the Salaries of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, the Receiver of the Metropolitan Police District, and the Assistant Commissioners of Police of the Metropolis."—
(Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley.)

DR. CLARK: We have just voted a large sum for the Police of London, and I object to this proposal to add to the burden.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): The proposal makes no substantial charge on the Estimates. It is rather a rearrangement of the existing charges by the abolition of certain allowances which are made to supplement the pay of the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner.

DR. CLARK: Under these circumstances I do not oppose it; but I object on principle to a large and rich city like London getting anything more from Imperial sources for this purpose.

DR. CALDWELL: I do not see why the Home Secretary should bring in a Bill under which it is proposed to put a charge upon the Imperial Exchequer. We have always objected to the Imperial funds bearing any expense for the Metropolitan Police, and, indeed, to anything in the nature of a subsidy.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The hon. Gentleman misunderstands the object of the Bill. The primary object of the Bill is to do away with the system of allowances and to give proper salaries to the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, and Receivers of the Metropolitan Police. There will be rather a diminution in the total charge than otherwise.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND) BILL [Lords].

Order for resuming adjourned Debate on Second Reading [12th June] read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

METROPOLITAN STREETS ACT (1867) AMENDMENT BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

MONEY-LENDING BILL [Lords].

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

Ordered, That the Members for counties do prepare lists of the Christian and surnames of Commissioners for executing the Land Tax Acts for their respective counties.

Ordered, That Members for boroughs and places having Commissioners executing exclusive jurisdiction within the same under the said Acts do prepare similar lists of Commissioners for executing the said Acts within such boroughs and places respectively.

Ordered, That Members for other boroughs and places do prepare similar lists of Commissioners for executing the said Acts for the counties in which such last-mentioned boroughs and places are situate.—(Mr. Hanbury.)

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Order for resuming adjourned Debate on Second Reading [9th March] read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

UNDERSIZED FISH BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (IRELAND) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn.

PARISH CHURCHES (SCOTLAND) BILL [Lords].

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn.

LICENSING EXEMPTION (HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Order for resuming adjourned Debate on Second Reading [23rd February] read, and discharged.—Bill withdrawn.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) [EXPENSES].

Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of an annual sum to the Congested Districts Board for the purposes of Sub-section 3 of Section 43 of The Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, and for other purposes of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts, in pursuance of any Act of the present session to amend certain provisions of The Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, affecting the Congested Districts Board, and to make further provision for the expenses of that Board out of money provided by Parliament (Queen's recommendation signified), To-morrow. — (Mr. Gerald Balfour.)

NAVAL WORKS (CONSOLIDATED FUND).

Committee to consider of making further provision for the construction of works and acquisition of land in the United Kingdom and elsewhere for the purposes of the Royal Navy, and of authorising the payment, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums as may be necessary for those purposes (Queen's recommendation signified), To-morrow.— (Mr. Austen Chamberlain.)

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of this day, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at One of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 18th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders
not complied with in respect of theWEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY
BILLought to be dispensed with and the Bill
allowed to proceed.

Read, and agreed to.

BEXHILL AND ROTHERFIELD
RAILWAY BILL.

DARWEN CORPORATION BILL.

Committee to meet on Thursday next.

BOOTLE CORPORATION BILL.

MENSTONE WATER BILL.

Committee to meet on Friday next.

FURNESS RAILWAY BILL [H.L.]

GLASGOW CORPORATION (TRAM-
WAYS, ETC.) BILL [H.L.]KIRKCALDY CORPORATION AND
TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.]SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHAT-
HAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COM-
PANIES BILL.Commons Amendments considered, and
agreed to.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

DUBLIN CORPORATION (MARKETS)
BILL.Leave given to the Select Committee
to adjourn over To-morrow.GREAT WESTERN AND GREAT CEN-
TRAL RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.Reported from the Select Committee
with Amendments.SHEFFIELD CORPORATION MARKETS
BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN
RAILWAY (NEW RAILWAY) BILL.Report from the Select Committee with
Amendments.

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SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHAT-
HAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COM-
PANIES (NEW LINES) BILL.

Reported with Amendments

WARRINGTON CORPORATION BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY
BILL.Moved, that the Order made on the 9th
day of March last, "That no Private Bill
brought from the House of Commons
shall be read a second time after Tuesday,
the 27th day of June next," be dispensed
with, and that the Bill be read 2^a; agreed
to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and com-
mitted: The Committee to be proposed
by the Committee of Selection.SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAM-
ROAD BILL [H.L.]Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the
Commons.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY BILL.

FISHGUARD AND ROSSLARE RAIL-
WAYS AND HARBOURS BILL.MANCHESTER CORPORATION
(GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN
RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS)
BILL.Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and
passed, and returned to the Commons.ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 10) BILL [H.L.]ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 11) BILL [H.L.]ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 14) BILL [H.L.]ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 15) BILL [H.L.]GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1)
BILL [H.L.]GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMA-
TION BILL [H.L.]WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL
[H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

2 R

BIRMINGHAM CORPORATION BILL.

MILTON CREEK CONSERVANCY BILL.

WOKING WATER AND GAS BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

GREENOCK AND PORT GLASGOW TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (PILOTAGE) BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 17) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14) BILL.

WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.

HARROW AND UXBRIDGE RAILWAY BILL.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz. :—

L. Kenyon,
L. Ribblesdale (chairman),
L. Granard (*E. Granard*),
L. Plunket,
L. Greville.

Agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order): The Amendments proposed by the Chairman of Committees' Committee made: Standing Committee negatived:

The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 9) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order): Amendments made: Standing Committee negatived: The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

TRADE REPORTS (1899) (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2319. Philippine Islands.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT.

Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture to inquire into and report upon the working of the Diseases of Animals Acts in so far as they relate to glanders, and to consider whether any more effective measures can with advantage be taken to prevent the spread of that disease; together with the Minutes of evidence, appendices, etc.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS (ENGLAND AND IRELAND) BILL, now SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing

Committee to be received on Thursday next ; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 169.)

OYSTERS BILL [H.L.]

The evidence taken before the Select Committee to be printed for the use of the Members of this House ; but no copies thereof to be delivered, except to Members of the Committee, until further order. (No. 170.)

METROPOLIS MANAGEMENT ACTS AMENDMENT (BYE LAWS) BILL [H.L.]

Commons Amendments to be considered on Thursday next.

POOR LAW ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.]

Amendments reported (according to Order).

Further Amendment moved—

"In clause 1, page 1, line 12, after 'deficiency,' to insert 'or of vicious.'"—(Lord Harris.)

On Question, "That these words be here inserted," agreed to.

*LORD NORTON : My Lords, I propose to amend Clause 1, which vests more largely in the guardians of a poor law union the control over children of parents not fit to have charge of them, by leaving out the words "vicious habits or mode of life" in the following sub-section :

"Where the guardians are of opinion that by reason of mental deficiency, or of vicious habits or mode of life, a parent of the child is unfit to have control of it."

Under the Poor Law Act of 1889 the guardians undertake the care of children who have been deserted by their parents, and act *in loco parentis* of those practically orphan children. That is a distinct, clear, and defensible position, but under this Bill the guardians are to assume control of children, even till the age of twenty-one, whose parents are, in the opinion of the guardians, unfit by their mode of life to have the care of them. This is a very strong advance in the direction of the State relieving parents of their proper responsibility in regard to their children. The Poor Law Acts provide that where a parent is imprisoned in respect of an offence against his child the guardians may take charge

of that child; but under this Act that is greatly extended, and, where a parent has been sent to prison for one act of cruelty to one of the children, the guardians, if they think fit, may undertake the maintenance of the whole family of children of that parent till they reach the age of twenty-one. If a vicious parent commits a crime against his child he can be punished by the law, and during his imprisonment the child would be sent to school, and the parent, after his punishment, could be compelled to enter into recognizances that he would treat his child properly in the future. That would meet the case much better than the provision in this Bill. The only answer which Lord Harris was able to give in Committee to my statement that the tendency of the Act would be to offer a premium to parents to get rid of their children was that Guardians would not be likely to incur more expense in this direction than was necessary. It is a poor defence of a Bill to say that it will not be acted upon, and that appears to be the only defence of the exaggerated provisions of this Bill. I am glad to see the noble Earl (the Earl of Kimberley), who presided over the Standing Committee, in his place, and I would appeal to him whether he did not acknowledge that the words which I now propose to omit were too vague, and whether he did not suggest that the noble Earl in charge of this Bill should insert words that were more explicit. The word vicious which has been consequently added by the noble Lord, and agreed to to-night, does not meet my objection, and I do not think it meets the objection of the noble Earl opposite. It is moreover undesirable except in extreme necessity to allow guardians to retain children under their care up to the age of twenty-one. One of the great faults in our industrial school system is that children are kept many years longer than they ought to be at school.

Amendment moved—

"In clause 1, page 1, line 12, to leave out 'vicious habits or mode of life.'"

*LORD HARRIS : This subject was discussed in the Standing Committee, and although it is quite true that one of the arguments I then used has been quoted by the noble Lord who has just spoken, namely, that in my opinion guardians would not be likely to extrav-

gantly spend the ratepayers' money on taking under their care children of vicious parents for a longer period than was necessary. I used other arguments to which the noble Lord has not referred. If you are going to refuse to extend sympathy to poor law children already under the maintenance of the guardians, who, through no misfortune of their own, have to suffer from parents of vicious habits and modes of life, you will, in order to be consistent, have to undo a good deal of the legislation of past years, which I venture to think has been of a very humane and very wise character. For many years past the object of legislation in this direction has been to get hold of children of vicious parents at an early age, and to prevent them being led into similar habits. I think the returns of crime already show unmistakably that that legislation has had good effect. This is only another step in the same direction. The Bill only affects children who are already under the maintenance of the guardians, and there is nothing to prevent the guardians from recovering the cost of the maintenance of the children from the parents. There is no reason why the children should live in the workhouse without doing any work until they are twenty-one years of age, and there is nothing to prevent guardians from putting them out to honest labour. It must be remembered also that only with the consent of the child can the guardians keep him or her after the age of eighteen. The noble Earl opposite (the Earl of Kimberley) contended that the words "habits or mode of life" were not sufficiently precise, and the Local Government Board think the insertion of the word "vicious," for which purpose an Amendment has already been agreed to, would make them sufficiently precise. This Bill is a step in advance of the existing Acts relating to this question, and is based on the Report of a Departmental Committee appointed in 1896 to consider the question of Poor Law Schools, and it distinctly recommended that guardians should have greater power than they have at present of dealing with the children of vicious and drunken parents. This is a wise and charitable Act, and will do something to improve the future of these poor children. On this ground I hope your Lordships will agree with the wording of the Bill.

Lord Harris.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: So far as I am concerned, the insertion of the word "vicious" meets the objection which I entertained. I agree in the main with what has been said by the noble Lord in charge of the Bill. I think this is a case in which, in the interests of the children, we may safely go as far as the Bill proposes. The safeguards are sufficient, inasmuch as there is power to appeal to a competent Court, which may annul the decision of the guardians. It is a very serious matter that children should be left under the control of parents whose mode of life is such that the children are likely to be brought up in a corrupt and vicious manner, and I think the advantages of the Bill will outweigh its disadvantages. I therefore assent to the Bill as it now stands.

On question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question," agreed to.

Moved "That Standing Order No. XXXIX. be considered in order to its being dispensed with"; agreed to, and the said Standing Order dispensed with accordingly; Bill read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

SEA FISHERIES BILL [H.L.]

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE AT KHARTOUM BILL [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

LAND ACTS (IRELAND).

***LORD INCHIQUIN:** My Lords, I rise to call attention to the following resolution of the Landowners' Convention, held in Dublin, 22nd February last :

"RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE LANDOWNERS' CONVENTION IN DUBLIN, FEBRUARY 22ND, 1899.

"That as Parliament has for public purposes thought fit to deprive the Irish landlords of a large portion of their legal rights and property in the soil, and has done so without that compensation which, previous to the passing of the Irish Land Acts, has been always recognised and granted wherever Parliament has deemed it necessary to interfere with such rights and property, we again call upon Parlia-

ment to consider the claims of the Irish landlords to compensation from the State for the loss they have sustained by the Land Acts and their administration, in the following respects :—

“(1) For the injury inflicted on them by being deprived of the right of resumption, and by the transfer from the landlord to the tenant of the right to the occupation of the soil ;

“(2) By the practical abolition of free contract in the letting of land ;

“(3) By the landlords being deprived of the right of obtaining in the open market the best rent for their property which solvent tenants would willingly pay ;

“(4) By the serious interference and diminution of the landlords' rights and income by the arbitrary fixing of so-called fair rents ;

“(5) By the reduction of rents below anything that could be justified by economic causes ;

“(6) By the heavy legal expenses periodically entailed upon the landlords by the process of fixing their rents judicially ;

“(7) By the impediments which have been placed in the way of their obtaining even the rent which the State still allows to them, while at the same time payment in full is enforced by the State for tithe rent-charge and all other State charges ; and

“(8) Generally, by the depreciation of the value of their property by legislation, as well as the deprivation of many valuable proprietary rights, the proper exercise of which was beneficial, not only to the landlords, but also to their tenants and to the community at large.”

And to move to resolve :

“That the question of compensation to the Irish landowners for injuries inflicted upon them by recent legislation demands the immediate attention of Her Majesty's Government.”

The resolution passed by the Landowners' Convention in Dublin states in a short and concise form all I wish to put before your Lordships, and if there is nothing that is untrue in that resolution—and I contend there is not—it is sufficient to justify the landowners' claim to have this question of compensation considered. Many of your Lordships are, perhaps, not aware of the manner in which the Landowners' Convention is constituted. It consists of representatives from every county in Ireland, who are elected to represent their county on the Convention, and to speak on behalf of the landowners in that county. Therefore, my Lords, in addressing your Lordships on this subject to-day, I feel that I am not expressing my own opinions or the

opinions of those who sit with me in this House, but that I am giving you the opinions of the whole of the landowners of Ireland. We have been blamed, and I think not unjustly, because we, as the representatives of Ireland in this House, have not done our best to bring this subject before Parliament. The subject is an exceedingly difficult one, and when it is considered, it will be seen that we are not so much to blame as we are thought to be in Ireland. Your Lordships must know that this is a question far more fitted for the other House of Parliament, and if we had in that House representation such as we ought to have, we should, of course, bring the question up in the House of Commons. Therefore, I ask your Lordships' indulgence in calling attention to the matter here; and I have more reason to do so, because I took up a very large portion of your time two years ago in calling attention to the matter then. I am afraid it will be impossible for me to put this case again before your Lordships without a certain amount of repetition. The subject is a very wide one, and there are no less than twenty-five Acts of Parliament dealing with it and extending over as many years. On the former occasion I did not allude to a very important Act, which really is the first Act upon which there are grounds for us to ask for compensation ; and if compensation had been then asked for, and pressed for, as I think it ought to have been, very likely we should not have had the legislation which has followed. The Government have themselves, on various occasions, admitted that the Act of 1869, to which I am going to draw your Lordships' attention, did do great injustice to the landlords in many ways. That Act was the Act for the Disestablishment and Disendowment of the Church in Ireland, and our grievances in regard to that Act came about in this way. The Church was disestablished, but we were left to pay the tithes which were payable before for the maintenance of the Church, and also, in addition, to keep up the Church at an enormous expense. I think the landlords of Ireland have behaved nobly in this respect. They have not only continued to pay their tithes, but they have found a revenue for the Church which amounts to £400,000 a year ; in fact, the Church of Ireland at the present moment has an endowment of no less than £8,000,000, a great deal of

which has to come out of the pockets of the landlords. That alone gives the landlords some claim to consideration ; but I would go further, and say that we have not only had to do that, but that we have strong grounds of complaint in reference to the tithe rent-charge itself. Many of your Lordships may not be aware how this tithe rent-charge came about. Before 1823 the tithe was paid by the occupying tenant in Ireland out of the corn produce of the country, and was revised every seven years according to the prices which then obtained, and the tenant himself had to pay it. Between 1823 and 1838 various Acts of Parliament were passed, the result being to place upon the landowner the duty of paying this tithe which had hitherto been paid by the tenant. This was not thought to be such a great hardship at the time, because landlords then had the power to recoup themselves out of the rent, which they could increase or vary as they pleased—though, in justice to them, I ought to say that they did not increase the rents on account of having the tithe rent-charge thrown upon them. The transferring of the tithe rent-charge from the tenant to the landlord naturally increased the value of the interest on the land ; that is to say, the letting valuation of the land was increased. In 1838, an additional alteration was made by which demesne lands and grazing lands, which, of course, constitute a very large part of Ireland, were included, and the tithe was made payable on these lands. Then came the Act of 1869, which, as I have just now informed your Lordships, took the tithe away from the Ecclesiastical purposes for which it was at first raised, and devoted it entirely to secular purposes, leaving the landlords to supply the Church with funds. This went on until 1872. In that year it was determined to alter the arrangement by which the tithes were raised, and, instead of altering them every seven years, as had been the custom, it was resolved that the tithe rent-charge should be commuted into a terminal charge, and that money should be lent from the Exchequer to pay off these tithes. The arrangement was that the interest was to stand at £3 10s. per cent., and the money was to be lent to the landlord to pay off the tithes in 52 years. The total charge, including Sinking Fund as well as interest, came to £4 9s., so that by paying £4 9s. per cent. the landlord was able to get rid of

the payment in respect of tithes in 52 years. But since this arrangement in 1872, rents have been lowered to the extent of something like 40, 50, and 60 per cent., but the same charge still remains upon the landlords as that fixed in 1872. That is a grievance which Mr. Balfour himself said in 1896 was a serious one, and which the present Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who was then Lord Privy Seal, condemned ten years ago as a very great grievance, and one which ought to be remedied. Nothing has been done since that time to remedy the grievance until this year, except one thing, which was, as usual, brought forward in the interests of the tenant, and the tenant only. The Government found, in 1896, that they were obliged to make the landlord buy up the tithe in cases where he sold to the tenant ; therefore, they brought in an arrangement under which the landlord could pay off the tithe in forty-five years instead of fifty-two. In point of fact, it had been discovered that a miscalculation had been made in reference to the fifty-two years, and that the period should have been originally fixed at forty-five years. As this alteration was made in the Act of 1896, you would naturally have thought that if this really was just for a landlord, when selling his right to the tenant, it should extend to other landlords. The Government promised us that they would amend this matter, and they introduced a Bill very late this year, although they promised to bring it in earlier in the session. I and other noble Lords had intended to move an Amendment to the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, but we refrained from doing so on receiving an assurance from the Government that they would deal with the question of tithe rent-charge in Ireland this session. We have, however, been treated very badly by the Government, inasmuch as the Bill was, in the first place, introduced at so late a period of the session, and, secondly, has now been dropped. I hope the noble Lord who will speak for the Government will make it perfectly clear that they do not mean to leave things as they are, but will bring forward their Bill at an early stage of next session and push it through. The legislation of 1870 was the commencement of that by which Mr. Gladstone gave effect to his land policy. Before 1870, Mr. Butt brought forward a Bill, which included the three "f's." I

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do not know whether it is necessary for me to explain the three "f's" to your Lordships, but, as I shall have to use the words frequently in my speech, I think I had better do so. The three "f's" are generally taken to mean fixity of tenure, fair rents, and free sale. Fixity of tenure means perpetuity rents, free sale means the right of the tenant to sell his interest in the land to the highest bidder, and fair rents mean valued rents. Mr. Butt, in his Bill of 1869, introduced these three "f's," and Mr. Gladstone was at that time very strongly opposed to them. How his opinions became altered to such a degree within a year or so afterwards it is difficult to make out. At that time Judge Longfield, who was Judge of the Landed Estates Court in Ireland, than whom no one was able to speak with greater force, spoke strongly against any proposition of the kind. He said that the rent which ought to be charged for land is really the economic rent—the rent which the land would fetch in the market. He said that the only test of value was the price the public were willing to pay; that rent by valuation only appeared just to those who did not know what the value of land was; and that landlord and tenant have the only and best means of knowing the value of the land. He said it was probable that, if a tenant right measure was passed, the tenant or occupier would be certain to pay the full rent in the end, because he would not only have to pay the rent but the price of the tenant right. He added that, therefore, between the two rents which the tenant would have to pay, he would have to pay just as high a rent as in the market. I suppose Mr. Gladstone must have been reading Judge Longfield's remarks at the time he said what I am going to read to your Lordships. Speaking on Mr. Butt's Bill, including the three "f's," Mr. Gladstone said :

"Inasmuch as perpetuity of tenure on the part of the occupier is virtually expropriation of the landlord, and as the mere readjustment of rent according to prices can by no means dispose of all the contingencies the future may produce in his favour, compensation would have to be paid to the landlord for the rights of which he would be deprived. This compensation must be paid either by the Consolidated Fund, or by an immediate increase of rent, in order to compensate the landlord by positive augmentation in the present for loss of his chances in the future. The effect of such a provision will be that the landlord

would become a pensioner and a rent charger on what had been his own estate. The legislature, no doubt, has the perfect right to reduce him to that condition, giving him a proper compensation for any loss he may sustain in money."

Could anything have been clearer than that? Sir Roundell Palmer (afterwards Lord Selborne) stated the same view. He said, speaking in March, 1870 :

"Fixity of tenure, in plain English, means taking the property of one man and giving it to another. My right hon. friend (Mr. Gladstone) said, according to the principles of justice, if we transferred property in that way we must pay for it. No doubt we may take a man's property, but in that case we must compensate him for it."

This was the view expressed by Mr. Gladstone in 1870, and it is an extraordinary thing that he should have changed his opinion so soon afterwards. I will try and trace what was in his mind. Mr. Gladstone, having refused the three "f's," brought in a Bill in 1870 legalising the Ulster custom, and giving tenants the right to claim compensation for disturbance. Then it was that landlords should have insisted on their claim for compensation. Under the Act of 1870, a landlord wishing to resume possession of a paying farm, the Court held that the tenant was entitled to £500 compensation, though he had been in occupation only a short time and the land was almost valueless to him. Under the same Act, landlords have had to pay compensation for improvements to which they have themselves contributed. After the Act of 1870 we come to the Act of 1881, but, before I deal with that Act, I would remind your Lordships that two Commissions sat during those years, one presided over by the Duke of Richmond, and the other by Lord Bessborough. The Richmond Commission was a very important one, and, after a long inquiry, they came to the conclusion that the landlords had not done the things which it was said they had done, and supported the landlords' claim for compensation if the three "f's" were established. But before the Richmond Commission reported, Mr. Gladstone appointed the Bessborough Commission, and every witness examined before that Commission had the three "f's" thrust down his throat. It will be admitted that it was extraordinary that Mr. Gladstone should be anxious to bring forward the three "f's," having used the language which I have quoted in 1870.

In 1881, when Mr. Gladstone brought in his Land Bill, he said in his statement that the three "f's" were not included, because the rents he proposed to have fixed were not necessarily reduced rents. Mr. Gladstone said he agreed that, if Parliament were to universally reduce rents to Griffith's valuation, that would be a fair case for compensation. I would ask your Lordships to look at the results, and you will see that subsequent evidence has shown that Mr. Gladstone was entirely wrong in 1881, for rents have been reduced much below—in some instances 25 per cent.—

Griffith's valuation. Perpetuity of tenure, Mr. Gladstone said, was not in the Bill, because, at the end of the fifteen years' lease, a landlord could resume; but it is well known that has turned out a fallacy, and judicial rents are renewable in perpetuity. Between 1881, the time the Land Act was passed, and 1891, there were 139 applications to the Land Commission for the purpose of resumption of land, but only nineteen of those applications were granted by the Land Commission. There were eighty applications to the Civil Bill Courts, out of which only twenty were granted. The landlord, Mr. Gladstone said, would have the right of pre-emption, but in fact this has been otherwise, and he can only exercise the right by the payment of a prohibitory sum for his own property. I have shown your Lordships, clearly I hope, that Mr. Gladstone was entirely wrong in the grounds upon which he excused himself in giving compensation to owners, and those who opposed him were right; and now I am justified in calling upon those gentlemen who opposed Mr. Gladstone with arguments, the soundness of which have been proved by subsequent history, to give effect to the opinions they then expressed, and not to eat their own words. I propose, with your Lordships' permission, to read what the Members of the present Government said upon this subject—and their words are so strong that I cannot understand how they can get out of the obligation to pay compensation. Mr. Edward Gibson (now Lord Ashbourne) said during the Debates of 1881:

"The measure concedes the three 'f's,' but gives no compensation to landlords for what it takes from them, and no security for what is left, though it offers them a guarantee for universal litigation renewable for ever."

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And, again, Lord Ashbourne said:

"If landlordism is to be done away with, why should not the transaction be done openly, and in the light of day? Don't filch their property without confession, or mutilate it without acknowledgment. What you take, take openly, and pay for what you take."

I think the noble Lord deserves great credit for his foresight, and for having spoken those words. He cannot turn round now, when we show him that what he anticipated has taken place. Mr. Arthur-Balfour said :

"It now appeared, by the Bill of 1870, that, without intending it, they had conferred on the tenant property which belonged to the landlord, and they now thought it necessary to legalise deliberately this accidental confiscation. Free sale must end either in rack-renting or in robbery."

We have been hauled over the coals over and over again for saying our property has been confiscated, but here is an admission of that fact. Free sale has ended in both rack-renting and robbery. Sir Richard Cross (now Viscount Cross) said :

"Let them say for the public good that this must be taken out of your estates, but, as in all other cases where we take the property of one man for the benefit of others, we offer you compensation full, fair, and ample for the injury we undoubtedly do to your estates."

The next quotation I will read to your Lordships contains very strong language, and it is from a speech by Mr. Chaplin :

"Are you going to give the man to whom you have sold the estate yourselves compensation, or, failing that, are you not bound to repurchase his estate on equitable terms? You are bound—there can be no question upon this point—to give him compensation. You give none. You tell us of judicial leases and judicial rents. I say that this part of your Bill is nothing else than one great scheme of judicial plunder."

I have another extract from a speech by Mr. Chaplin, the language of which is equally strong. He says :

"These sweeping and extravagant proposals, proposals which conveyed to the breakers of the law the bulk of everything they have demanded, and which differs little, if at all, from those schemes of public plunder which the Prime Minister himself so unsparingly denounced, except, indeed, in this particular—that the Government gave no compensation to the landlord; and which certainly were included in every scheme which has been either suggested or attributed to the hon. member for the City of Cork (Mr. Parnell)."

In every scheme which Mr. Parnell brought forward he included provision for compensation. Mr. Chaplin continued :

" You teach the lawless and the disaffected that by outrages, by violence and crime, by persistent and daring defiance of the law, they can wring—nay, they have wrung—from the Imperial Parliament the grossest and most unhallowed act of great public confiscation that ever yet has been attempted by any Minister or Statesman in any civilised society or country in the world."

This is is pretty strong, I think. This is what Lord Salisbury said on the subject. Speaking on free sale, the noble Marquess said :

" I defy anyone to show that this money is given to the tenant without taking away the property of the landlord."

Lord Lansdowne said :

" You are going to divide the interests of landlord and tenant, restricting the former and leaving the latter free. The landlord's property must suffer."

There is one letter which I should like to read to the House. It is from the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack (the Lord Chancellor) in reply to a letter from a landlord in Ireland, asking him his opinion on the subject of compensation. The noble and learned Lord said :

" Dear Sir,—As my words were not committed to writing, I cannot speak with absolute certainty as to what they were. But what I think I said was, that I cou'd see no reason why Irish landlords should be excepted from the principle which was generally applied in all cases where State policy involved taking away something to which an individual had a right—that is to say, that compensation should always be given where, for State reasons, private rights were invaded."

I believe I have made it clear that it is impossible for the members of Her Majesty's Government to deny that they anticipated the very evils which it is my business to show have occurred. Mr. Gladstone, in introducing his Bill of 1881, said :

" If as has been said, Parliament is about to invade the property of Irish landlords, the question of compensation becomes a very serious one indeed, and one concerning which, if we are prepared to deal with it at all, we ought to speak in most decisive terms. If those classes, either or both of them, have a just claim for compensation in consequence of the manner in which their interests will be affected by this Bill, we are bound as a Parliament to give it to them."

No language could be clearer than that. In another stage Mr. Gladstone said :

" We, in 1869 (on the Disestablishment of the Church), provided that every holder of an advowson in Ireland should receive the full market price of his property. This we held to be the true principle on which compensation should be based, and this is the principle on which the question should be approached on the present occasion. If after experience should prove that, in fact, ruin and heavy loss is likely to have been brought on any class in Ireland by direct effect of this legislation, that is the question we ought to look directly in the face."

I could quote many of Mr. Gladstone's colleagues to the same effect. The noble Marquess at the head of the Government, in answering me on a previous occasion, told the Irish landlords that they must appeal to the constituencies and get public opinion on their side, and so long as they did not ask for any money he could give them his complete sympathy. What, my Lords, is the good of sympathy without money ? I am speaking on behalf of men who have been ruined, and not for those landlords who are well off and get their money from other sources than their estates. I was in a house in Ireland recently which was previously occupied by a family in a very comfortable position, with an income of some £3,000 or £4,000 a year, but the lady who was living in that house, on account of difficulties, is now receiving only 14s. a week, just enough to keep body and soul together, from the mortgagees. I am putting before the House the position of thousands in Ireland. A great cry has arisen, and will increase in volume until a remedy is provided. If we appeal to the constituencies they either will not understand our case, or they will say :

" We have the strongest Government this country has seen, which is perfectly capable of understanding the matter, and it is their duty to see that the Irish landlords are compensated."

Our case must be heard, and we insist upon having it heard. Millions of pounds have been taken away from Irish landowners, and they are entitled to compensation. What the Irish landlords say is this : " You have reduced our rents, you have taken a large slice out of our property and handed it over to the occupying tenant, who is at liberty to go wherever he likes with the money." That is what Parliament has done. It has handed over to the occupying tenant

the difference between the old rent and the judicial rent. I will take in illustration a peculiar case upon my own estate just after the Act of 1881 was passed, and which I mentioned to your Lordships when I had the honour of calling attention to this question two years ago. I happened to put a tenant into a farm a year before the Act came into operation. The tenant was to pay a rent of £150 a year. He had not paid a farthing for that, because tenant right did not exist in the South of Ireland, and as regards my own estate, it was especially guarded. The tenant asked the rent to be reduced to £120. He asked to be allowed to sell, and he was allowed to sell. The result was that he got £1,250 for his interest, having come in the year before without having paid for any interest whatever. This man walked off to America, or somewhere else, with his £1,250, and left the present tenant subject to the rent of £120 plus interest on £1,250, which, I am bound to add, the tenant is paying very regularly. The other day the tenant applied to have his rent fixed for the second Term. It was fixed at £90, so that the original rent has been reduced by £60, or about 5 per cent. on the sum paid for the tenant-right. That is a clear case of carving the tenant-right out of the rent. Numerous cases of this sort could be cited. I had intended to refer to other matters, but I fear that I have already detained your Lordships at too great length. I would conclude by impressing upon the Government the absolute necessity of looking seriously into this question, and if they offer the same answer which they gave on a former occasion I shall feel compelled to appeal to your Lordships to put a little pressure upon them.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN: My Lords, I have listened with the greatest interest to the excellent speech which has just been delivered by the noble Lord, and the most extraordinary part of that speech is that it is perfectly true, however incredible it may seem that any Government could have brought any class of Her Majesty's subjects to such a state of misery and poverty. I am sure the noble Lord's speech will meet with the sympathy of your Lordships, and especially of the three noble Lords opposite who have held the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and who are thoroughly

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acquainted with this question. The noble Lord at the beginning of his speech referred to the tithe rent-charge, and I should like to be permitted to say one word with regard to the Tithe Rent-charge (Ireland) Bill, which was introduced at the beginning of the session. To the astonishment of those who had trusted to the promises of the Government, we learned this morning that this Bill had been withdrawn, and I fear that when the news is received in Ireland it will be read with amazement and consternation by most of the landowners in that country. I cannot help thinking that the Government have treated us very badly in this matter. I might even use a stronger term, for my noble friends and myself naturally assumed that when the Bill was introduced the Government intended to proceed with it. Mr. Balfour stated that he hoped to bring in the Bill early next session with better results, and I trust the First Lord of the Treasury will fulfil his obligation to the landlords of Ireland. Why should this Government, the strongest in our own time, not only in ability but in votes, not support their friends who support them, instead of listening to the smooth words of those who have never helped them, who are their political enemies, who will continue to be their political enemies, and who, the more that is given them, the more will want? Slowly but surely the Irish landowners are being bled to death, and by the next generation there will hardly be a middle-class or small landed proprietor left in Ireland in a state of solvency. That has been brought about by various Acts of Parliament passed by different Governments, and I hope that to-night we shall have a satisfactory answer to the question laid before your Lordships by my noble friend.

***LORD FARNHAM:** My Lords, after the very able and exhaustive speech of the noble Lord who introduced this question, I do not intend to detain your lordships at any great length, but I feel I should not be doing my duty to those who look to us, and whose only representatives we are, if I did not make a few remarks upon their case. Were it not for their representatives in the House of Lords the landlords of Ireland, contributing as they do large sums to the revenue, would, nevertheless, be almost as much without repre-

sentation or means of making their voice heard as are the Uitlanders in the Transvaal. I was present during a Debate in your Lordships' House a short time ago, when it was proposed that some form of Fair Rent Fixing Court should be introduced into Wales, and I was struck by the shudder of horror with which the suggestion of an extension of the Irish Land Acts into Wales was received. In that Debate the noble Duke, the Duke of Argyll, stated that in passing the Irish Land Acts your Lordships had salved your consciences by believing that in Ireland the improvements were made by the tenants, whereas in England they were made by the landlords. In the first place I indignantly deny that there is, or ever has been, any desire on the part of the great body of the Irish landlords to confiscate the improvements of their tenants. On the contrary, they would have welcomed any measure which would have secured to the tenant the unexhausted improvements of his holding. But, if it was expedient to legislate for the purpose of securing the tenant his improvements, why should it have been thought necessary to take from the Irish landlord those rights which the English landowner enjoys along with him? I had always understood that it was a maxim of English law that when the property of a private individual is taken from him, he should receive fair and full compensation. Sir Stafford Northcote said that when you sacrifice the interests of a class for what you consider a general benefit you ought to be called upon to make compensation. The question is whether recent legislation was brought about by political exigencies or not. My case is that the whole of the Irish land legislation was the outcome of political, and not of economic, necessity. It was laid down, more than fifty years ago, by Mr. Finton Lalor, that the mere question of separation was not in itself sufficient to enlist the sympathies of the peasantry of Ireland, and that in order to do that it would be necessary to tack on to that some other question, and this question, he said, is found in the land. That article, forty years later, was quoted by Mr. Michael Davitt, who said that those were the principles which presided over the birth of the Land League, and started the land agitation. The object was to drive out the landlords, not so much *qua* landlords, but because they

constituted the English garrison. The rent agitation was set on foot for a political object, and the Land Act was passed for the same object. Mr. John Bright said on May 9, 1891, on the Second Reading of the Land Bill of that year:

"It is for the peace and tranquillity of the realm that this Bill has been drawn up and introduced to the House."

And, later on, Mr. Bright speaks of it as

"A measure on which depends to a large extent the social interests of Ireland, and, I believe also, on which depends to a large extent the political interests of the United Kingdom."

If the custom as to improvements of holdings differed in England and Ireland, that was a mere question of practice; but when we come to the other questions, such as right of occupation, free contract, etc., they are questions which depend on abstract principles of right and wrong. If the rights of which the Irish landlords have been deprived by legislation were consistent with justice, the Irish landlords ought to have been compensated for their loss. If those rights are unjust, then the English landlords, who still enjoy them, ought to put their house in order, and bring in a measure to provide for the surrender of rights which they ought not to possess. But I do not consider that those rights are unjust, and it is impossible to deny the equity of the claim put forward by the Irish landlords for compensation for their loss. If we have suffered, and if we deserve compensation for the loss of those rights which we used to, and which the English landowners still enjoy, much more do we consider that we are entitled to it on account of the manner in which the Land Act has been administered, and the way in which the predictions concerning it have been falsified. When the Bill was introduced in the House of Commons, we were told that it would rather benefit the landlords than otherwise, and that if they did lose a small amount of their rents it would be amply made up to them by the security they would enjoy, and the regularity by which their rents would be paid. It was stated by Mr. Parnell, in July, 1881, in Committee on the Fair Rent Clause, that the Bill would undoubtedly reduce many rents which were extreme rack-rents; but he thought that, on the other hand, it would raise many rents which were at the

present moderate, and that, as regarded the class of rents which were too high, but which could not come under the denomination of rack-rents, it would leave them untouched. The net result would be, said Mr. Parnell, that the total amount of rent paid to the landlords in Ireland would be increased rather than diminished. The extraordinary thing which we find is that there does not appear to be any difference made between what may be called rack-rents and other rents, inasmuch as rents which had been recently raised to what might be termed rack rents, and those which had remained unaltered for generations, have been subject to the same percentage of reduction. As to the rents which have been left untouched, we could almost count them on our fingers, and the alteration has invariably been in the same direction. We have an original and fundamental grievance which exists in the Act. It is one which I called attention to when I had the honour of addressing your Lordships last year, and it is this, that the State has undertaken a task which it has never performed. The State undertook to fix fair rents as between landlord and tenant, but the State has never gone so far as to define what a fair rent is, or the principles upon which such a rent may be fixed. I called attention to that last year, and the noble and learned Lord (the Lord Chancellor of Ireland), in answering me, said :

"The Act itself, however, when an opportunity was given to it of defining a fair rent, shrank from the task and did not define it, so that some consideration should be given to those who are given the administration of the Act, which itself declines the difficulty of a definition."

That is exactly what we complain of. I submit that our grievances are none the less keenly felt because the defect is inherent in the Act itself. We have suffered severely under it, and from the vague ideas that are in the minds of the sub-Commissioners as to what fair rent is. I submit that on that head alone we are entitled to compensation for the loss we have sustained. We have claims also in regard to the extraordinary proceedings of the courts of sub-Commissioners. I do not intend to go into all the cases to which I might refer, but I would call your Lordships' attention to one or two. I will first call attention to the evidence of Mr. Bassett, a valuer, given before the Fry

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Commission. He was speaking of a holding in which the rent had been reduced from £70 to £41, and when he was cross-examined he said that he had deducted, as part of the cost of production, 300 tons of manure—£30. The witness was asked : "Do you mean farmyard manure ?" And his reply was : "Yes, Sir, 300 tons at 2s. a ton are £30." Is it conceivable, my Lords, that the manure which is taken out of the farm, and which the tenant pays nothing for whatever, should be charged for under the head of cost of production and deducted from the rent ? That £30 made the difference between the old rent and the new rent. Another case has recently come under my notice—the case of General Everard. Previous to the passing of the Act of 1870, General Everard let a portion of the demesne as an ordinary yearly tenancy, no fine being paid by the tenant on getting possession. The tenant applied, after the passing of the Act of 1881, to have a fair rent fixed. He claimed no improvements, and had seriously deteriorated the holding. He lived four miles away, and used the land merely for grazing purposes. The rent was reduced by the Court from 25s. to 20s. per statute acre, and the true value fixed at £7 10s. per statute acre. General Everard did not reside upon the estate, and was only tenant for life. His nephew, Major Everard, barred the entail on coming of age, but as he did not for some years require to occupy the land, he found that the farm had thereby become undemesned. He is now obliged to rent the farm from his tenant yearly on an eleven months' grazing agreement, for which he has to pay him 35s. per statute acre, and to herd the cattle and keep the fences in order at his own cost. This is, indeed, a monstrous case. In the report of the Fry Commission special attention was drawn to the methods of the sub-Commissioners when valuing a farm and inspecting drains. The Fry Commission say :

"In our opinion it should be the practice of these officials, from time to time, to direct that, before their inspection, such openings should be made in the drains as may be necessary to test their existence and condition, and that they should do so in every case in which the landlord makes a request to that effect."

This was alluded to, and commented upon, by the Lord Chancellor of Ireland

both last year and this year. My noble and learned friend said on July 28 last year:

"The suggestion as to the inspection of drains is a very important matter. It commended itself to everyone, and has been incorporated in the instructions to valuers."

More recently the Lord Chancellor of Ireland said the recommendation of the Commission in regard to drains had been put in force, and was at the present moment working with great advantage. When I heard that my heart was filled with hope, and I believed that one point upon which we had very great difficulty would be set at rest. But my dream was soon dispelled by a letter which I received from my own agent a few days ago, drawing attention to a conversation he had with the lay Commissioner when visiting the lands of one of my tenants, James Reilly, Clonlohan. The Commissioner looked at the outlet of a drain, and on being asked by my agent what steps he took to ascertain whether the length of the drain claimed for by the tenant was correct, he told him that they had no way of ascertaining, and always accepted as correct what the tenant swore to in court. So astonished was my agent that he called up the bailiff as witness, and he encloses a letter from the bailiff confirming his statement. Surely it is conceivable that a tenant might make an exaggerated statement as to the amount of drains he had made. It is also within the bounds of possibility that he might make a statement at variance with the truth. Are we to believe that his statement is to be accepted in court without any investigation? Would any noble Lord, when he is selling a flock of sheep, expect to have his word taken as to the exact number of sheep in the flock? If there is one direction more than another in which proper supervision and inspection should be exercised, it is in verifying the statement of the tenant as to the improvements he has made in his holding. I would ask, my Lords, What is it that the State has done? It has, if I may be allowed the metaphor, constructed an enormous vessel built upon principles opposed to any pre-conceived ideas of naval architecture; fitted her with powerful engines, with no appliance for stopping or going astern; sent her to sea unprovided with any efficient steering apparatus, and started her on her voyage either without a compass,

or with one on which the north point, the cardinal point of a properly-defined fair-rent, has never been defined; manned by a crew mainly composed of inexpert landsmen, and only capable of being navigated at enormous cost. Starting on her wild and erratic career, she damages or sinks all who come in her way, and we, I think not without justice, consider that we deserve some form of compensation as the unwilling and protesting victims of an unprecedented and dangerous experiment. Who are we who now appeal to you? We are not those who have been marching through rapine to the dismemberment of the Empire. We are not those in whose eyes England's difficulty has been Ireland's opportunity. We have, as your outposts, borne the brunt of the first attacks on property and the Union. Faithful, though not favoured, we have kept our claims in the background, when, by pressing them, we might have embarrassed a Unionist Government; but when we see that ruin and exile is the immediate fate of many of our number, and the ultimate fate of almost all, we can keep silence no longer, but come forward to ask that it shall not be said of the justice-loving people of England that they have placed upon men's backs burdens too grievous to be borne, which they themselves will not touch with one of their fingers.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE): My Lords, the noble Earl who moved this motion has presented his case clearly and fairly, and with every anxiety not unduly to occupy the time of your Lordships, but he set before himself an immense task when he went on to discuss an enormous code, which he said comprised twenty-five Acts of Parliament and which dealt with a vast variety of complex subjects. At the close of his speech, which was necessarily a very long one, he asked your Lordships to affirm the proposition that the question of compensation to the Irish landowners for injuries inflicted upon them by recent legislation demands the immediate attention of Her Majesty's Government. That recent legislation, he stated, had its starting point in 1869, with the passing of the Irish Church Act, which was followed by the Land Act of 1870, and by other Acts of Parliament, notably by the Act of 1881. My noble friend, when he came to the Act of 1881, gave your Lordships

many quotations from speeches of Members of your Lordships' House, and he did me the honour of quoting some words which I had used and he said it would be impossible for us to eat our words. Personally, my Lords, I have never wished to withdraw, qualify, or deny one solitary syllable I have said in reference to the Act of 1881. I was one of its most resolute and consistent opponents. I challenged its policy from the start to the finish, and I attacked every one of its clauses. I therefore repudiate any suggestion that I am bound to defend the Act of 1881, or to vindicate the policy which was responsible for it. We have now to face a practical question, and my noble friend (Lord Inchiquin) and the noble Lords who followed him must, as practical men, present to your Lordships some practical conclusions that can lead to some practical results. My noble friend dealt with various topics, and one of those was the reduction of rent which has taken place in Ireland. That, of course, was the most important subject he referred to. Your Lordships will at once recognise that the reduction of rent is not peculiar to Ireland, although it has been brought about by voluntary action and concession it might be in England and Scotland, while the legislature stepped in in Ireland and worked out the results which have been arrived at. What is the practical way of dealing with this question? Does my noble friend suggest that it is possible to retry all the fair-rent cases in Ireland? Does he suggest that it is possible by an inquiry into those vast topics to find a way by which compensation might be sought? Anyone connected with Ireland knows that there is much truth in the suggestion that the landowning class in Ireland have been subjected to grave and serious loss in recent years, and I know, from being more closely connected with them, how keen the suffering has been to the smaller landed proprietors, many of whom have been reduced to urgent straits. When the noble Marquess at the head of the Government had his attention called to this subject on a former occasion he spoke with the deepest and kindest sympathy, but he said it must be made clear to the tenants in Ireland that you do not mean to upset the Act of 1881, that compensation in any shape, in pounds shillings and pence from the English Exchequer is not to be sought for, but that an effort

should be made to enlist public sympathy with what my noble friend called a merited tenderness for interests which have been hardly treated. This is the way, a difficult way, no doubt, in which this question must be approached, because it must be dealt with as a practical question. My noble friend (Lord Farnham) referred to the Fry Commission and its recommendations. I admit, at once, that it is a reasonable suggestion that any fair proposal that is capable of being worked out and applied with justice to both sides should be fairly tried. Upon more occasions than one this question has been before your Lordships, and not long ago I went in the fullest possible way into every one of the operations of the Land Commission to give effect to such of the recommendation of the Fry Commission as they themselves approved of, and as appeared desirable they should adopt, and I heard with surprise the statement of Lord Farnham as to the mode of inspection of drains. I was informed that a certain practice was being adopted, and if a contrary practice has been adopted, then it was a matter for inquiry. There is another matter, apart from giving direct compensation, which may also do a great deal for land in Ireland, and which I have always looked upon as a matter of the highest importance in reference to the working out of the whole agrarian problem in Ireland—that is the development of the purchase system. We are always entitled to be asked how that system is working, and to show that we are alive to the importance of giving every facility for the working of that great policy. I am happy to say that that system is working vigorously, well, and progressively. I gave figures two or three months ago, showing that the output up to the date at which I spoke was quite 2,000,000 a year, and that it was going on steadily, and even at an increased rate. The year that terminated on March 31 last shows a great increase on the preceding year, which itself showed a vast increase on the year that preceded it. I have made inquiries as to the progress of the system during April, May, and June of this year, and I find that during these three months there has been a steady, marked, and most encouraging increase. Is it not satisfactory, in regard to this great land question in Ireland, to find that the purchase system is in vigorous,

Lord Ashbourne.

successful, and progressive operation? A matter of obvious importance has been referred to by the noble Duke—namely, the fact that a Tithe Bill was promised in the Queen's Speech. The measure, which was introduced in the House of Commons, was intended to be perfectly fair to all parties, and to enable right to be done, and no one regrets more than I do that that Bill could not be passed into law this session. It is evident, however, from the language of Mr. Balfour in another place, that the Bill was dropped with great reluctance and regret, and that the intention is to re-introduce it at an early period of next session. I can only express my own deep regret that that Bill was dropped. I believe my regret is shared by many others, and no effort will be spared on my part to endeavour to ensure the introduction of the Bill at a very early period next session. I trust, in these circumstances, that my noble friend will withdraw his motion.

THE MARQUESS of LONDONDERRY: My Lords, I confess I heard the concluding words of my noble friend with a certain amount of satisfaction, but I would rather have heard him give an absolute promise that the Bill should be introduced at an early period next session. All who wish to deal fairly in this matter cannot but have heard with sympathy the grievance under which the Irish land-owning classes are suffering. I do not think anyone can deny that the Land Acts of 1870 and 1881 have to a very great extent benefited one class in Ireland to the injury of another; but if the motion of my noble friend had attempted to deprive the occupying class in Ireland of any single item of advantage they have derived under the legislation I should not have supported it. The land-occupying classes in Ireland have obtained enormous advantages under the Land Acts, and they have been perfectly justified in taking every advantage of those Acts, but I feel that those classes who have benefited by this legislation would, in a great many cases, be the first to desire that those who have been deprived of the benefits they possessed in the past should

be recompensed, and, if possible, compensated for losses in the future. No one, I think, will deny that at the present moment the original landowner in Ireland has become nothing more than a rent-charger. We know full well that the powers of Parliament are unlimited, and that Parliament can take the roof over my head and the coat off my back if it chooses; but I do not think Parliament has ever confiscated a man's property without giving him honest and fair compensation; and some compensations, direct or indirect, should be given to those who have had their property in Ireland gradually, but surely, squeezed away from them. Whenever this question is raised the noble and learned Lord who responds for the Government on Irish questions invariably attributes this legislation to the Government of 1881. He adheres to the speeches he then made, and says he does not repudiate one single sentence. I should have liked to see the noble Duke the Lord President of the Council and the noble and learned Lord the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in their places tonight, as they were responsible for the Act of 1881, and to have heard what were their views upon it. In all probability they would have told us that they anticipated that the Land Bill of 1881 would do no harm whatever to the land-owning classes. They probably thought that the passing of that Land Bill would bring about an absolute millennium to the land-owning classes. I think they must now admit, however, that their prognostications have been falsified by the results. Lord Selborne, during the passing of the Bill of 1881, made use of the following expression:

"I deny that the Bill will in any degree whatever diminish the rights of the landlord or the value of the interest he possesses."

Five years after the passing of the Act Lord Selborne ventured to observe that he would rather have cut off his hand than have been a party to the Act. Moreover, the legislation to which I have alluded has been, in my opinion, a breach of contract on the part of the Government, who put forward every inducement to people to invest their money. People were assured that the rents were so low that they could easily be raised, and owing to the assurance of the Government £52,000,000 was invested in this

way. What is now the position of those who bought that land? The property has been damaged in the market to the extent of thousands, and even millions, of pounds by this legislation, and it is a clear case of mutilation of property. Realising as he does the damage that has been done to the land-owning classes in Ireland, is my noble friend not justified in asking that compensation of some kind, either direct or indirect, should be given to those people who, as I have said, have had their property squeezed away from them? The Irish Land Commission during the past year has cost no less than £172,000, and it does not appear that these expenses are going to be curtailed in future, for the salaries of commissioners and sub-commissioners in 1899-1900 were £127,722, as compared with £114,579 in 1898-1899. If I were to say that the decisions of these commissioners were considered unfair by the land-owning classes, your Lordships would probably regard my assertion with scepticism. But I will quote what Mr. William O'Brien says on the subject. He says:

"There can be no finality, no security, either for landlords or tenants so long as the rents of Ireland go on dropping and changing every fifteen years, according to the whim of whatever Land Commissioners get hold of them. It is a mere gambling transaction what a man's rent may be. It depends on what Government is in, or what kind of Land Commissioners they appoint. It depends on whether the landlord is rich enough to carry it to the Appeal Court. For all practical purposes, the rents of Ireland might as well be fixed by tossing up a coin."

Mr. O'Brien anticipates that, by the time the period for the third fixing of judicial rents comes round, Irish landlords will be absolutely ruined unless they dispose of their property, for their rents will be whittled down to next to nothing. As Mr. O'Brien said, the landlords know this, and this is the reason for the motion of my noble friend. Do Her Majesty's Government consider that it will be for the benefit of Ireland that the land-owning class should be wiped from the face of the country? So far as I know the feeling of Irish farmers, they do not wish for the expropriation of landlords, though naturally they desire to enjoy the benefits of legalisation passed on their behalf. They know that the labouring class far outnumber the occupying tenants, and expropriation of one class in the interest of the class below

being permitted, they fear that the cry for their own expropriation would not be long deferred. In this lies great danger for the future of Ireland—the rise of a race of small proprietors without capital, who cannot develop the resources of the country, who will not inspire confidence in English capitalists, and who will fall into the hands of the "gombeen" men—the usurers—who will be the real owners of land in Ireland. I rejoice that under the operation of the Ashbourne Acts purchase is making way. Those Acts are of inestimable advantage and relief to owners with heavily mortgaged property; but there are owners not under such difficulties, and who are unwilling to sell because they cannot invest their money at the rate they derive in the form of rent. When the noble Marquess the Prime Minister received the deputation on this subject, he expressed his sympathy and advised the landlords to bring forward their grievances prominently and frequently. That advice they are following. For the Government to ask the House of Commons to vote millions for the redress of the grievances is impossible, but there are ways in which the object can be partly attained. To a certain extent the Tithe Rent-charge Bill would have done something, and I trust we shall hear that an attempt will be made to pass it next session. It might be possible to make advances at a cheap rate of interest to heavily mortgaged landowners, and upon security that would relieve the British taxpayer from any anxiety. It is not for me on this occasion to suggest ways and means; it is for the Government to put their sympathy into practical form.

*LORD CLONBROCK: My Lords, I am afraid my noble and learned friend the Lord Chancellor of Ireland will be surprised at what I am going to say. I wish to appeal to the Government not to consider this a hostile motion, but to accept it as an acknowledgment of the reality of our grievance and our claim to compensation in some shape or form, while reserving to themselves the power of dealing with any measure for compensation which we may bring before them. It has been often acknowledged by individual members of the Government that grievous losses have been inflicted, however unintentionally, on Irish landlords by the Land Acts. I say unintentionally, as it is universally admitted that those Acts

The Marquess of Londonderry.

have not fulfilled the anticipations of those who introduced them. I will repeat, in support of that statement, the oft-quoted remark of Mr. Gladstone to the effect that he would be greatly disappointed if property did not rise to twenty-five years' purchase. Instead of rising, it has fallen to about seventeen years' purchase, and my noble friend who introduced this motion has given your Lordships the reasons why this has taken place. His statement of the losses which landlords have sustained by the imposition of tenant right and the introduction of fixity of tenure was so full and exhaustive that I should have done little more than glance at it, had not my noble and learned friend the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, in his answer on behalf of the Government, passed over that portion of my noble friend's speech, and seemed to attribute our losses almost entirely to reduction of rent, and to hold therefore that our claim to compensation was on that ground. My noble and learned friend also made a comparison between the reduction that had taken place in rent in Ireland and the reduction in rent in England, which I cannot admit to be a fair one. For if a comparison were made not between Ireland and England as a whole, but between Ireland and those parts of England which most resemble it in agricultural conditions, a different conclusion would be arrived at. I have seen such a comparison; I have not the figures by me, but they would bear me out. The loss which the landlords have sustained by the introduction of tenants' right where it never before existed, and of fixity of tenure, was foreseen in some quarters at the time the Act of 1881 was passed. The noble Marquess at the head of the Government stated in your Lordships' House in August, 1881, on the subject of free sale, that:

"The tenants all over Ireland are to be authorised to sell for money that which they never bought, which they never earned. I defy anyone who pays attention to the multiplication table to show that this money is given to the tenant without taking away property from the landlord on whose estate the farm is."

The late Lord Selborne said:

"I must say that the extension of the Ulster custom to the rest of Ireland does appear a manifest violation of the principles of justice, and to be impossible if we mean to respect those principles."

VOL. LXXIV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

The Marquess of Lansdowne, on the Second Reading of the Land Bill of 1881, said:

"The fact is, my Lords, that this is not an attempt to remove imperfections from the existing law. It is an attempt to quell an agrarian rebellion by the wholesale concession of proprietary rights to the peasantry of Ireland—a concession which has been extorted by violence and agitation. These rights you are asked to create; do not let us be deluded into the belief that we are merely going to recognise and legalise something which exists already."

There could not be a clearer description than that of what has been done by the imposition of tenant right and fixity of tenure over the whole of Ireland. It has been sought to justify this transfer of property on the ground that the tenant has by his improvements acquired, in equity, a property in his farm, and that the landlord is only entitled to its "prairie value." I have often heard a landlord say, "Prairie value! I wish I could get back my land at its prairie value," meaning as virgin soil, before it had been destructively treated by successive tenants. To anybody who knows Ireland it is apparent that there cannot be a greater mistake than to assume that the land in Ireland has been generally improved by the tillage of the tenant. I have taken the trouble to consult some of the most experienced and most competent judges, and they assert that for every one acre that the tenant has improved there are 100 acres which have been deteriorated to an extent far exceeding in amount any outlay in buildings or fences. Many of the tenants are poor, ignorant people who know no better, and lead struggling lives. There are 580,000 holdings in Ireland, and of those nearly a half are under fifteen acres. I would be the last person to blame the poor people who hold these farms, but by persistent bad husbandry they have deteriorated the land, and it was consequently most unjust that at least 25 per cent. should have been carved out of the fee simple of the land, as shown by the reduction of its selling value, and given to the sitting tenant on the ground that he and his predecessors in title had improved it. This is a distinct grievance quite apart from reduction of rent or agricultural depression. The administration of the Act has also not fulfilled the anticipations of its framers. The

report of the Fry Commission bears witness to this. When we find that it states that there is no common understanding of the law or uniformity of practice, that the most general instructions are issued to the sub-commissioners, that no definition is given them of the fair rent they are called upon to fix, when we find about the best thing said about the administration is that the Commissioners are unable to conclude that the machinery has been uniformly worked with injustice to the landlord, it is impossible not to see that the whole of the administration of these Acts has been carried out in such a haphazard and uncertain way that if any righteous decision has been arrived at it has been more by good luck than good management. Since the Report of the Fry Commission has been issued, one of the most distinguished members of that Commission, Mr. Robert Vigers, has made a speech on the subject, in which he says :

" His own experience was that many of the men sent to report on the farms and to fix the rents did not know as much about the value of land in Ireland as he himself did as a mere visitor. They had no experience or proper training ; the work was done without any head to direct their proceedings, and they consequently got into many difficulties. His own impression, after talking with the people in some of the districts, was that those men going to report on some of the more lonely parts of Ireland felt that they must reduce the rent or they would hardly dare to revisit the district. In any case, an old landowner who had never altered his rent, but had kept it at the lowest minimum, was treated in the same off-hand way as was the speculating landowner who had doubled or trebled his rents."

Again, Mr. Vigers, comparing the way in which the business is done now with the manner in which Sir Richard Griffith did it, says that Sir Richard Griffith instructed the men under him in a way that to his mind was extremely practical and clever. Mr. Vigers says :—

" Every man employed had complete directions as to how he was to proceed with his work. Sir Richard Griffith was the one head, and every man who made a valuation could go to him, and with a schedule of his particulars and valuations could have any corrections made or directions given that were necessary. That was very different from the way in which the business was done in connection with the present Land Act. The valuers now knew little or nothing of what they were to do as a general body, but simply made their own notes and their own valuations and handed them in, and, if necessary, supported them in court ;

Lord Clonbrock.

but there was no one to give them any direction, whether in fixing the rent they were to deal with, the buildings, or what deductions they were to make, or whether they were to make any deductions at all from what they thought was the value of the tenant right interest. Some of them did make a deduction for the tenant right interest, but others who had valued the same farm had not made any deduction on that account, but they came to the same conclusion that there should be a deduction of 24 per cent., 25 per cent., or 26 per cent., off the rent. The more one looked into the matter, the more evident it was how very loosely the whole thing was managed."

That is the opinion of one of the most competent men in the United Kingdom to express an opinion upon this subject. Some improvements, have, as stated by my noble and learned friend, been lately introduced, but they are but few in number compared with the recommendations of the Fry Commission. The uncertainty as to what constitutes a fair rent still continues. I should like to read to your Lordships a short statement by Mr. Commissioner Bailey, one of the legal Commissioners in the North of Ireland. Mr. Bailey said :

" What I did state, however, and what I wish to reiterate, is that, as a rule, we do not, merely on our own valuation of the land, raise a rent where the landlord has not so applied ; and we would not reduce a rent where the tenant had not made an application, and did not complain of his rent until he was brought into court by the landlord."

Therefore, it appears that Mr. Commissioner Bailey, although he is instructed to fix a fair rent, thinks it right, when the rent is too low, to allow it to remain so and call it a fair rent, simply because the landowner has not applied to have it increased ; and in the same way, when the rent is too high, to refuse to alter it because the tenant has not applied to have it reduced. One noble Lord compared the working of the Land Commission to a ship sent to sea without a compass and under very unfavourable circumstances. I would rather compare it to a terrible engine of destruction paring away and destroying the property of a portion of Her Majesty's subjects. They appeal to Her Majesty's Government for protection. The Government say, " The machine is not of our creation, it was wound up and set going long before our time, we can only try and make it grind a little more evenly. We cannot be held responsible for the injury which it inflicts." My Lords, the same continuity in legislation which pre-

vents a Government from rescinding the Acts of their predecessors, should render them responsible for the effects of such legislation. If they were dealing with a foreign Government I do not think they would accept for a moment a plea that what they complained of was the work of a previous administration. They would hold the Government in power responsible, and the country responsible. We are ready to admit that the legislation of which we complain was approved of by this country when it was passed, but, now that the injury that has been inflicted is proved, we hold the United Kingdom responsible and look to the Government for redress. We were told, not long ago, by the noble Marquess, the Prime Minister, that we ought to make our grievances known. It is with the object of making our case thoroughly known that I appeal to the Government to accept the resolution of my noble friend. There are, no doubt, a certain class of people in England, as probably in every other country, who are prepared to pronounce a dogmatic opinion on every question under heaven, but the generality of Englishmen know nothing of the subject we have been discussing. They know that Her Majesty's Government are fully acquainted with it, and, when they find that we can get nothing more than a few civil words of sympathy, they naturally compare us to the most intolerable nuisance which can afflict any class of society—namely, the man with an imaginary and ill-founded grievance. But, if they saw that our case attracted the attention of the Government, they would look into it in order to see if our complaints were well founded. That is what we want. We want the people of England to criticise and look into our case, feeling confident that if they really understood it they would recognise that we had a real grievance which should be remedied. We have but little power to appeal to the people of England, and we have no political influence in our own country. From what has happened lately it has been shown that we are not allowed any control over local affairs. It has been often thrown in our teeth that we have never been able to attract the people to us; but it must be remembered that, if we are in this isolated position, it is because we have been too faithful to the English connection, because we have desired that the country

we love so well should not sink into a mere Dependency, but should remain closely united to the governing centre of that great Empire which our countrymen have done so much to extend and to consolidate. The fact that we have clung so closely to English associations ought not to be thrown in our teeth as a reproach by any class of Englishmen, even by those who differ with us as to the exact nature of the link which should unite the two countries. We do not claim any favour on the ground of our attachment to England; all we claim is justice, which we hope we shall eventually receive. I would appeal to Her Majesty's Government to accept the motion of my noble friend as an acknowledgment of the justice of our case.

THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, the noble and learned Lord, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, said the noble Lord who moved this motion had come to no practical conclusions. The practical conclusion that noble Lords from Ireland have come to is that they will get nothing at the hands of Her Majesty's Government. Only this session the Tithe Rent-charge Bill has been thrown over, notwithstanding all the promises of the Government, and the arrangements made that the Irish Peers should not move an Amendment to the Address, because that Bill was to be introduced this session. In reply to the noble Lord, I will mention a way in which relief or compensation could be granted to landlords without in any way touching the tenant. If the tithe rent-charge was immediately abolished, it would only be a slight instalment of the compensation due for injustice inflicted by the Land Acts. Board of Works loans have been granted to landlords. Outstanding portions of these loans should be ascertained, and made payable by instalments identical with those required from tenants for loans under the Land Purchase Acts. When such concessions are freely conceded to the tenants, we submit we have a good right to ask that State loans advanced to us on the security of our estates should be adjusted on similar terms. The case is strong in respect of Board of Works loans, because a large proportion of these advances was made for the improvement of tenants' holdings, and rents have been reduced without fair credit being given to the landlord in respect of

the expenditure under these loans. State loans on the same terms as to repayment as loans under the Land Purchase Acts could be granted to landlords to enable them to purchase and redeem Crown rents, quit rents, and Church perpetuities. All these the State exact as if rents had not been reduced and Land Acts did not exist. I could bring many more matters, if time permitted, before your Lordships—notably the Land Purchase Acts, which were framed as if the interest of the tenant was the only thing to be seriously considered or consulted. Everything is done to help the tenant to buy ; nothing is done to help the landlord to sell. He often cannot face the loss of income and heavy costs entailed upon him, and therefore refuses to sell. We will admit that it is the duty of the Land Commission to make no advances of State funds beyond the amount for which, in their judgment, a holding affords good security ; but, to quote the Report of the Fry Commission :

"The practice of the Department has been over-strict in the matter of security, and applications have been thereby discouraged."

Such a course impedes land purchase transactions, and in many cases contemplated sales are abandoned. The Fry Commission has recommended reforms in procedure with regard to the Land Purchase Acts, and we ask that their recommendations may be carried out.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE : My Lords, I do not know that I can usefully add to what has already been said by the noble and learned Lord, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland ; but it might appear disrespectful to the noble Lords who have spoken since he addressed your Lordships if someone sitting on this Bench were not to say a few words upon the subject before the House. I think my noble and learned friend gave good advice to the Irish landlords when he recommended them to treat this question as practical men, and to concentrate their attention upon measures which might fairly be described as practical measures. I am not at all sure that we much advance matters by researches into the working of Mr. Gladstone's mind when the Land Acts were in the process of incubation, or into the manner in which that wedge, the thin end of which the noble Lord discovered in the Irish

Church Act of 1869, was ultimately driven home with such disastrous results. The question seems to me to be this—What can we, as practical men, do at the present time to mitigate the admitted hardships from which the landlords of Ireland have been made to suffer under the various Acts of Parliament to which attention has been drawn this evening ? One noble Lord has told us very frankly that he did not care very much about sympathy unless it was accompanied by money—indicating, presumably, that we should have a raid upon the British Exchequer—and that a sufficient grant should be obtained from that source to make good to the Irish landlords the losses they have sustained. I am afraid that proposal does not come within the category of those practical measures upon which, in my opinion, Irish landlords ought to concentrate their attention. In the first place, I think it would be an entirely new departure in the politics of this country if we were, eighteen years after the passing of an Act of Parliament, to compensate from the public funds the persons who, owing to the mistaken estimates of the framers of that Act, have proved losers by its operation. I doubt if there is any precedent in the history of this country for any action of the kind. But, apart from that, I am unable to imagine upon what basis a measure of compensation of that kind could be framed ; because, after all, it is quite obvious that if rents have fallen in Ireland it is due to two causes—partly to the action of the Land Courts, and partly to the natural fall in values which has occurred all over the United Kingdom ; and I fail altogether to see how it is possible to disentangle those two factors, and to say that a certain proportion of the diminution of the rent roll of the landowners in Ireland is chargeable to the Act of 1881. Noble Lords from Ireland are, I think, wiser when they take the line which they have laid down in a very clearly-drawn Memorandum, submitted to the Government by the Executive Committee of the Irish Landowners' Convention. In that Memorandum they make certain specific suggestions, and they explain that those suggestions are so framed that they would not deprive Irish tenants of any of the benefits conferred on them by the Land Acts—that was a point upon which Lord Londonderry laid much stress—and in the next place they would not involve the

The Earl of Mayo.

payment out of the Exchequer of anything in the nature of money compensation. Those seem to me to be wise lines upon which to proceed, and I have read with very great interest the proposals which follow in the Memorandum. I confess that I think the claim of the Irish landlords for the sympathy of the House is due, not simply upon the reduction of their rents, but to the fact that the results of past legislation have been to deprive them of a great many of those incidents of ownership, the presence of which makes the owner of an estate the real proprietor of the land, and the absence of which converts him into something like a mere rent-charger. It is suggested that, for the loss of these incidents of ownership, what is called compensation might be granted to the Irish landlords in three directions—first, by a reform in the procedure, practice, and methods of valuation of the land courts, as recommended by the Fry Commission; secondly, by legislation for the purpose of lightening the burden and facilitating the reduction of land charges, both private and public; and, thirdly, by facilitating land purchase. With regard to the first suggestion, a number of the recommendations of the Fry Commission have already been carried out, and the whole report is receiving the consideration of the Land Commissioners. In discussing these matters we sometimes allow ourselves to lose sight a little of the fact that the Land Commission is, after all, a judicial tribunal appointed under Statute, and that it is not within the province of the Executive Government to dictate to that Commission how it should discharge its duties. We are apt, when dealing with people outside the limits of this country, to wax rather indignant when we find the executive usurping the functions of the judiciary and interfering with the functions of the Courts; and, to be consistent, we should observe ourselves the rules which we are so fond of inculcating for the observance of others. Then, my Lords, with regard to the second recommendation of the Convention, reference has been made in the Debate to the Irish Tithe Rent-charge Bill; and I share in the regrets which have been expressed over the abandonment of that measure. It is said that the present Government are a strong Government, and that it is not at all to their credit that they should have thrown that Bill overboard. But

there is one thing which even the strongest Government cannot command, and that is Parliamentary time, and it is because Parliamentary time is not available that, in addition to other "innocents" this particular ewe lamb has at the last moment to be immolated. I very gladly repeat and enforce what has been said by my noble and learned friend, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, as to the intention of the Government to reintroduce that measure next session; and no pains will be spared to place it on the Statute Book. I do not suppose that any Government, under any circumstances, could undertake to give an unconditional pledge that any measure would become law during a session from which we are removed by six or seven months; but we have said enough to show that it is our intention to introduce the measure and to spare no pains to pass it. The third recommendation was in the direction of land purchase in regard to which there is absolute unanimity amongst all persons who have studied the Irish land question. I rejoice to know that land purchase, which seemed at one time to be flagging a little, is now proceeding with great vigour and rapidity; for it is in that direction, more than any other, to which I look for a solution of the great difficulties that surround the Irish land question. It was suggested by the noble Lord who spoke last that we should show our goodwill by accepting the motion as it stands on the Paper. That is an invitation which I am afraid we cannot accept, for the motion carries us a little too far; but this we may say, that, with regard to the past, noble Lords from Ireland, who have brought this question more than once before the House, have achieved a good deal by the success with which they have directed attention to blots in the administration of the land laws; and, with regard to the future, we have every hope that the one particular measure upon which noble Lords from Ireland have very naturally set their hearts will be more fortunate next year, and will find its place on the Statute Book.

***LORD INCHIQUIN:** My Lords, I might almost make another speech in answer to what has been said on behalf of the Government, but I do not propose to do anything of the kind. I merely propose to inform your Lordships that my motion was specially worded with the hope that it would be accepted by Her Majesty's Government as a motion which was not hostile. It is impossible for me to do what the Government wish—namely, to withdraw this motion, as the adoption on my part of such a course would be to stultify my position altogether. If the Government cannot, as the noble Marquess has said, disentangle the hurt done to the Irish landlords by economic causes from the harm done

them by land legislation for the purposes of compensation, let them appoint a Royal Commission to do it. For the Government to say that they sympathise with the Irish landlords is not sufficient. Let them give some practical proof of their sympathy. Two years ago, when I moved a similar motion, I withdrew it at the instigation of the Government, because I was assured and believed that the Government seriously intended to consider the question of compensation for the Irish landlords. On the present occasion I feel compelled to go to a Division.

On question, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 39 ; Not-Contents, 34.

CONTENTS.

Grafton, D.	Falkland, V.	Mendip, L. (<i>V. Clifden.</i>)
Abercorn, M. (<i>D. Abercorn.</i>)	Ardilaun, L.	Monck, L. (<i>V. Monck.</i>)
Abingdon, E.	Brougham and Vaux, L.	Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Annesley, E.	Castlemaine, L.	O'Neill, L.
Bandon, E.	Clonbrock, L.	Plunket, L.
Dartrey, E.	Congleton, L.	Rathmore, L.
de Montalt, E.	Farnham, L.	Saltersford, L. (<i>E. Courtown.</i>)
Drogheda, E.	Grey de Ruthyn, L.	Stanley of Alderley, L.
Mayo, E. [<i>Teller.</i>]	Hare, L. (<i>E. Listowel.</i>)	Stratheden and Campbell, L.
Morton, E.	Headley, L.	Sudley, L. (<i>E. Arran.</i>)
Rosse, E.	Inchiquin, L. [<i>Teller.</i>]	Templemore, L.
Vane, E. (<i>M. Londonderry.</i>)	Kenmare, L. (<i>E. Kenmare.</i>)	Tyrone, L. (<i>M. Waterford.</i>)
	Macnaghten, L.	Ventry, L.
		Worlingham, L. (<i>E. Gosford.</i>)

NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (<i>L. Chancellor.</i>)	Hardwicke, E.	Belper, L.
Devonshire, D. (<i>L. President.</i>)	Kimberley, E.	Churchill, L. [<i>Teller.</i>]
Cross, V. (<i>L. Privy Seal.</i>)	Morley, E.	Glanusk, L.
Marlborough, D.	Onslow, E.	Glenesk, L.
Ailesbury, M.	Powis, E.	James, L.
Lansdowne, M.	Selborne, E.	Kintore, L. (<i>E. Kintore.</i>)
Ripon, M.	Spencer, E.	Langford, L.
Pembroke and Montgomery, E. (<i>L. Steward.</i>)	Waldegrave, E. [<i>Teller.</i>]	Monk Bretton L.
Crewe, E.	Yarborough, E.	Muncaster, L.
Denbigh, E.	Addington, L.	Norton, L.
	Ashbourne, L.	Shute, L. (<i>V. Barrington.</i>)
	Balfour, L.	Wolverton, L.

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

To be read 2^a on Friday next.—(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

COMPANIES BILL. [H.L.]
House to be in Committee on Thursday next.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Eight of the clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 18th July 1899.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE,
&c.

Ordered, That the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures, have leave to sit To-morrow during the sitting of the House.—(*Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.*)

Sittings of the House (Exemption of Government Business). (Division List, No. 272.)

Mr. ANSTRUTHER and Captain NORTON, the Tellers for the Aye Lobby, in the Division of yesterday on the Main Question, came to the Table and stated that they had erroneously reported the number of the Ayes as 226 instead of 286, which was the proper number.

Ordered, That the Clerk do correct the said error in the Journal by stating the number of the Ayes in that Division as 286, instead of 226.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

LINCOLN AND EAST COAST RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL.

LOWESTOFT PROMENADE PIER BILL.

Lords amendment considered, and agreed to.

BROOKE'S PARK (LONDONDERRY) BILL. [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed without Amendment.

SOUTH HANTS WATER BILL [Lords].
(Queen's Consent signified.)

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

BUENOS AIRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY BILL [Lords].

Not amended, considered; to be read the third time.

LEA BRIDGE DISTRICT GAS BILL
[Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

PORTSMOUTH CORPORATION BILL
[Lords].

ROCHDALE CANAL BILL [Lords].

WESTON-SUPER-MARE GRAND PIER BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [Lords].

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 3) BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed.

NORTH EASTERN AND HULL AND BARNSLEY (JOINT DOCK) BILL [Lords].

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP M).

Mr. LAURENCE HARDY reported from the Committee on Group M of Private Bills; that, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Thursday next, at Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

INEBRIATES' ACT, 1898.

Petition from Liverpool, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Old Cumnock, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Kippen, and Monkton and Prestwick; to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Pittenweem, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Petition from London and other places, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Liverpool, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN.

Petition from Colne, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Petition from Battersea, against, to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY COMMISSIONS.

Return [presented 17th July] to be printed. [No. 281.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2319 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS.

NELSON MONUMENT ON PORTSDOWN HILL.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) : I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether the Nelson Memorial on Portsdown Hill, which was erected by the crew of the "Victory," is being removed, and, if so, why this is being done ; why expensive scaffolding was erected round the Memorial last autumn, and, after standing through the winter, was taken down without further work being done, and again erected ; and whether several hundred pounds were wasted in this way.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) : This monument, standing on War Office land, was formerly in charge of that Office. It was reported, on examination last autumn, that the monument was in such bad repair as practically to require rebuilding. At the suggestion of the Treasury the monument and the land on which it stands has now been transferred to the Admiralty, who have accepted the trust and will henceforth repair and maintain this national memorial. The scaffolding referred to as

having been taken down was erected by War Office contractors in order that the condition of the work might be properly examined. The estimate given by this firm for the necessary repairs was declined by the Admiralty, on the ground that it was excessive, and the work is now being carried out by another firm at considerably less than half the cost. The change has therefore resulted in a large saving, and not, as suggested in the question, in the waste of several hundred pounds.

SIR J. FERGUSSON : Is the monument to be restored and not moved ?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : It is being restored, and will henceforth be maintained in proper condition by the Admiralty.

ENFIELD FACTORY ACCIDENT.

CAPTAIN BOWLES (Middlesex, Enfield) : I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office if, at the Royal Small Arms Factory, when Henry Horner injured an artery, there was no ambulance available, the poor man had to walk home, and on his arrival he fell exhausted.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) : This man was conveyed to the surgery in a bath chair. On leaving the surgery after treatment he declined the use of the chair, and expressed a wish to walk home. The doctor at the time saw no objection to his doing so.

GOVERNMENT WORKMEN AND VOLUNTEER TRAININGS.

CAPTAIN BOWLES : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he can see his way to give Volunteers serving in the factories under the War Office some pay during their attendance at their week's training, in the same manner as the Post Office and many private firms do.

*MR. WYNDHAM : As I informed the House on the 13th instant, this question has been considered, and it has been found impossible to permit absence without forfeiture of pay or equivalent overtime ; but, with these reservations, every effort is made to facilitate attendance at drills and camps.

SPIRIT TRAFFIC IN NIGERIA.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State

for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the reports in the press of the evil effects of the sale of spirits in Lagos and the district known as Southern Nigeria ; whether he has any information as to the number of gallons imported into these districts during the last financial year of the Royal Niger Company ; and whether, in view of the proposed assumption by the Government of the administration of these territories, he will immediately consider what steps can be taken to check the present importation of spirits to the regions referred to, and to secure their continued exclusion from Northern Nigeria.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) : The hon. Member appears to be in some confusion as to these countries. Lagos is a colony—there is at present no district known as Southern Nigeria—probably he intends to refer to the Niger Coast Protectorate, which is under the administration of Her Majesty's Government—the territories of the Royal Niger Company, which will shortly come under the administration of Her Majesty's Government, are distinct from the Protectorate. My attention has been called to the reports referred to. The number of gallons of spirits imported in 1898 was as follows : Lagos, 1,366,794 ; Niger Coast Protectorate, 1,164,108 ; Niger Company's Territories, 178,068. Steps have recently been taken to check the importation of spirits into these regions by raising the duty to 3s. per proof gallon, and the exclusion of spirits from Northern Nigeria will be maintained.

NONCONFORMIST MINISTERS AS GUARDIANS.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich) : I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to the case of the two Nonconformist ministers who have resigned their seats on the Ipswich Board of Guardians, the clerk having advised the Board that Nonconformist ministers who receive fees for the burial of paupers in parochial cemeteries are thereby disqualified to act as guardians ; whether the law has such effect ; and whether in that case the clergy of the Church of England are subject to the same disability ; and if there is inequality between the clergy of the Established Church and Nonconformist

ministers whether he will propose an alteration of the law to put an end to such injustice.

***THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD** (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) : The Local Government Board have no authority to decide this question. If, however, as I understand, no bargain or contract is entered into between the guardians and the minister, but the arrangement for the performance of the funeral is made by the undertaker, I am advised that the minister would not become disqualified to act as guardian by reason of his receiving a payment for his services, although the payment might be ultimately borne by the guardians. I am also advised that the receipt of a fee payable by custom or under statutory authority to a clergyman in connection with a pauper funeral would not disqualify him from acting as guardian.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts., Mansfield) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he will state the amount of rates from which, under the Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill, the clergy of the County of Surrey will be relieved, and also the sum which will be payable on account thereof out of the Local Taxation Account.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby) : The cost of the relief given to the clerical owners of tithe rent-charge in the County of Surrey is estimated to amount to between £1,700 and £1,800, and the share of the administrative county in a sum of £87,000 distributed in the proportion of what are known as the "discontinued grants," is approximately the same amount.

VENTILATION OF THE DIVISION LOBBIES.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe) : I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether, in consequence of the trying nature of the atmosphere ordinarily prevailing in the Division Lobbies, he would be disposed to consider the desirability of arranging for the opening of three windows, many of which are fixed, in each lobby, instead of the one window now available, or of otherwise introducing some much needed ventilation there.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): Every consideration shall be given to the suggestion of my hon. friend.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that, under the Teachers' Superannuation Act, present teachers are placed on an unfavourable footing with teachers appointed after the passing of the Act; whether he contemplates taking any steps to remedy this grievance; and whether there is any objection on the part of the Education Department to school boards supplementing the amount provided for teachers on retirement.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I have to point out that present teachers have the option of coming under the Superannuation Act or not. It is true that they will not share in the benefit of the Annuity Fund further than their own contributions to that fund extend, but the superannuation allowance paid to them by the Treasury is on a higher scale than that for teachers appointed after the passing of the Act. I cannot undertake, on the part of the Department, to introduce an amending Act. With regard to the last part of the question, I can only refer the hon. Member to Section 12, Sub-section 6 of the Act. The Department has no power to waive the provisions of the Act.

CASE OF MARY ANSELL.

MR. DALZIEL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a statement made by Mr. Charles Cusworth, of Warwick House, Capel Road, New Bushey, who was the foreman of the jury in the case of Mary Ansell, in which he states that had the evidence which has since been published been put before the jury in regard to the prisoner's insanity, his opinion is that they would have been unanimous in recommending a commutation of the death sentence; and whether, in view of all the circumstances of the case, he can see his way to the postponement of the date of execution pending an independent inquiry into the prisoner's sanity.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M.

WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): My attention has been called to a statement which has appeared in the newspapers. I am satisfied, as the result of very full inquiry and after consultation with the judge, that if the question of insanity had been raised at the trial there is no evidence to that effect which could properly have affected the verdict of the jury. I fear the answer to the last paragraph must be in the negative. It is my duty to protest against the insinuation which appears to be conveyed by the word "independent" in the last paragraph.

MR. DALZIEL: As a personal explanation, I wish to be allowed to explain that the word "independent" means officers not retained by the Home Office. There is another question which I wish to ask of the right hon. Gentleman. It is, whether his attention has been called to the fact that the prison chaplain has expressed his difficulty in deciding and has in fact insinuated that in his opinion the girl does not understand the gravity of her crime.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Every single point which has been alluded to by the hon. Member has been fully within my knowledge during the last week, and I have given each of them my best consideration.

UNCONVICTED PRISONERS.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the length of time during which persons awaiting trial are kept in prison has been brought to his notice; and whether, seeing that accused persons in the provinces are sometimes awaiting trial for months, he will take steps to shorten the period of their detention.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: This question has been frequently under consideration. I fear that in some cases a long detention before trial is inevitable, but I am not in a position at present to promise any definite remedy. The matter is, however, one which will not be lost sight of, and I may perhaps in this connection draw the hon. and gallant Member's attention to the Bail Act, 1898, which gives greater powers to magistrates to allow persons to be at large pending trial.

HANDCUFFING PRISONERS IN PUBLIC.

CAPTAIN NORTON : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the practice of handcuffing together on a chain remand prisoners, male and female, and taking them into railway stations on their way to trial has been brought to his notice ; and whether he will consider the advisability of avoiding as far as possible the subjecting of unconvicted prisoners to public disgrace.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY** : From time to time I receive representations with regard to this practice at particular places, and steps are taken to obviate the necessity so far as practicable in view of the exigencies of each case, but the difficulty of ensuring the safe custody of a number of prisoners without having resort to some mechanical means of restraint is very great.

CONVICTION OF TODMORDEN BOYS.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a sentence passed on the 11th instant by the justices sitting at Todmorden upon two youths of one calendar month's imprisonment with hard labour, without the option of a fine, upon a conviction for stealing gooseberries worth fourpence ; whether his attention has also been called to the statement of the police superintendent concerned in the case that nothing was previously known against the accused ; and whether, having regard to the circumstances of the case, he will order the immediate release of the prisoners.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY** : My attention has been called to this case, into which I am making inquiries.

SITTINGS OF PARLIAMENT.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will endeavour to so rearrange the time for the meeting of Parliament that the House shall not sit in the months of July and August.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) : The question that the hon. Gentleman asks is not a new one. It was discussed in the House in, I think, 1890,

when Sir George Trevelyan moved a resolution in the sense of the hon. Member's question. It was opposed by Lord Tweedmouth and the Government of the day, and lost by a small majority. I confess that I do not see how any such plan can be carried out, unless we were also to change our financial year. The financial year does not begin until March 31st, and I do not think it would be possible to get through the business of Supply by the beginning of July. It would also involve an autumn session. I have no reason to believe that these two changes find general acceptance, and if they do not find general acceptance I am afraid the change suggested by the hon. Gentleman can hardly be carried out.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury what Navy Votes will be taken on Friday, and in what order ; and whether it is intended to interrupt the consideration of Navy Estimates at any hour to take the War Office Vote ; and, if so, at what hour.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : Vote A of the Navy Estimates will be taken first on Friday and the sub-departments of that Vote will be taken in the order of No. 3, No. 2, and No. 1. I should hope that the Navy Estimates will end about the middle of the sitting, and that adequate time, or at all events some important fraction of time, will be left for the discussion of the Army Estimates.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR : There is no intention, then, of interrupting the discussion on the Navy Estimates ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : The discussion of the Navy Estimates will have to be interrupted, unless it comes to a natural termination.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : In regard to to-night's business, if we get through the Food and Drugs Bill what other Bills will be taken before the motion of the hon. Member for Leominster, which has been starred ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : It is possible we may sit to so late an hour as to make it inconvenient to take to-night the starred motion of my hon. friend the Member for Leominster in reference to "the employment of women overtime in washing

bottles." I should certainly not propose to take any controversial measures if we are fortunate enough to finish the Food and Drugs Bill to-night.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) : Is it not the case that the starred motion is very urgent and ought to be discussed at once ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I do not think the urgency is as great as that.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

MILLWALL DOCK BILL,

Without Amendments.

REDDITCH GAS BILL,

BLACKPOOL IMPROVEMENT BILL,

With Amendments.

Amendments to—

BRIGHTON MARINE PALACE AND PIER BILL [Lords].

GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS AND WATER BILL [Lords].

Without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend section one of the Poor Law Act, 1889, section four of The Poor Law (Apprentices, &c.) Act, 1851, and section four of The Pauper Inmates Discharge and Regulation Act, 1871." [Poor Law Acts Amendment Bill [Lords].]

Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Inclosure Acts, 1845 to 1882, and the Law relating to Commons and Open Spaces." [Commons and Open Spaces Bill [Lords].]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Law relating to Sea Fisheries." [Sea Fisheries Bill [Lords].]

NEW BILLS.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT (No. 3).

Bill to amend the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, as to the election

of Burghal Parish Councillors, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Edmund Robertson, Sir Charles Cameron, Sir William Dunn, and Sir John Leng.

LAND DEDICATION.

Bill to facilitate the Dedication of Land to the public enjoyment, ordered to be brought in by Sir John Brunner, Mr. Bryce, Lord Balcarres, Mr. Lionel Holland, and Mr. Thomas Shaw.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Bill to make further provision for Education in England and Wales, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Alfred Hutton, Sir John Brunner, Mr. Lloyd-George, and Mr. Broadhurst.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACT (1882) AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Electric Lighting Act, 1882, ordered to be brought in by Sir John Dorington, Mr. Hobhouse, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, Sir William Houldsworth, Colonel Lockwood, and Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT (No. 3) BILL.

"To amend the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, as to the election of Burghal Parish Councillors," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 273.]

LAND DEDICATION BILL.

"To facilitate the Dedication of Land to the public enjoyment," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 274.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

"To make further provision for Education in England and Wales," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 31st July, and to be printed. [Bill 275.]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACT (1882) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Electric Lighting Act, 1882," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 276.]

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, S. Molton): The Amendment I desire to move is one approved by the Select Committee which sat so long on this subject. We sat for three years, held thirty-five sittings, and examined sixty-eight witnesses, and the effect of our Report was that margarine should not be coloured so as to resemble ordinary butter. We have no desire whatever to restrict the sale of margarine; we only wish to put down fraud. We do not ask that it should be coloured blue, pink, or green; we only say it should not be coloured so as to imitate butter. Yesterday it was stated that margarine was a valuable article of food for the working classes. I am not prepared to dispute that. But I noticed that the statement came from hon. Members who admitted that they had never tasted it. Is it not rather a dangerous argument to put forward that an article which they themselves disdain to eat is a valuable article of food for those who earn their living by labour? It is certainly one which would not go down with a working-class constituency. Why should not the working classes be put in a position to know exactly what they are buying? We have been told that those who speak for the working classes have declared that they do not wish margarine to be sold in any other colour except that of butter. I dispute that entirely. I do not believe there is a single scrap of evidence of their desire that margarine should be coloured so as to imitate butter. The hon. Members for Morpeth and Battersea, both working-class constituencies, have voted against margarine being made to resemble butter in colour. What is this mixture? It is composed of beef and mutton fat (thirteen parts), cotton seed oil (four parts), and milk (three parts). The beef and mutton fat is sold at 2d. per lb. I do not see why the working classes should be anxious to eat this fat mixed with cotton seed oil, which is an excellent cattle food. Tallow candles are made of beef and mutton fat. Again, the mixture is sometimes made with lard, and why should people of the Jewish persuasion have their feelings outraged by having forced on them an article abhorrent to them, but disguised as butter. Further, the small retailer of genuine butter in

towns is put at a great disadvantage by having to compete with the shopkeeper, who unscrupulously sells as butter margarine which only costs 4d. or 6d. per lb. I am told that my motion amounts to an infringement of the principles of Free Trade, and the hon. Member for Dundee has declared that the Bill is founded on Protection. But I never knew that Free Trade meant Free Fraud, and it is fraud that I am anxious to put down. This Bill will necessitate the appointment of a very large number of inspectors, whereas my desire is to enable every purchaser to be his own inspector. When he purchases margarine, let him know that it is not butter. If it were such a valuable article of food, would not the manufacturers endeavour to keep it as distinct as possible from genuine butter, whereas they imitate it as closely as possible in colour, they make it up in pats, and these pats bear the impress of a cow. When I pointed that out to one of the witnesses before the Select Committee, he replied that both the milk and the fat come from cows. Yes, but the milk comes from the living cow and the fat from the dead cow. Let margarine be labelled as dead cow's fat if you like. The fact is that this mixture is in reality made to be sold as butter and not as margarine. I do not believe that my proposal would destroy the trade in it, although it might somewhat reduce the price of the article. Holland is the home of the margarine trade, for out of 899,000 cwt. of margarine imported into this country, 843,000 cwt. came from Holland. In connection with these figures it is significant to notice that the country from which the exports of butter have most largely increased is also Holland. I am convinced that a large amount of what purports to be butter, and comes from Holland, is really margarine. I have here the prospectus of a margarine company recently started in Holland, on the board of which it was desired that English Members of Parliament should serve, and I say that this is an attempt to induce hon. Members to countenance what is really a fraudulent trade. As to the colouring of butter, that has been much exaggerated. The secretary of the dairy section of the Bath and West of England Show has assured me that no prizes are given for butter artificially coloured. In any case, butter is never coloured to imitate margarine. We know the opinion

of the Committee which examined into this very question—the Committee of which the Secretary to the Local Government Board was chairman.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) : I dissented.

MR. LAMBERT : Yes, but you were beaten by eleven to five. I am informed by the Secretary to the National Agricultural Union that the members of that body are pledged to a programme which includes the prevention of the colouring of margarine to imitate butter, and I am sure that if you allow this you will do it in opposition to the opinions of ninety-nine out of every hundred agriculturists. There is a great desire to induce people to return to the land, but how can you expect them to do so if you will not allow them fair play when they seek to sell the produce of the land on the market? I do not want, I repeat, to infringe the principles of Free Trade, but I contend that it is our duty to give our farmers fair play, and I therefore hope that even at this the eleventh hour the Government will consent to accept the clause which I have placed on the Paper.

New clause—

"It shall be unlawful to manufacture, sell, expose for sale, or import any margarine which is coloured so as to imitate or resemble butter, and every person who manufactures, sells, exposes for sale, or imports any margarine so coloured shall be guilty of an offence under the Margarine Act, 1887."—(Mr. Lambert.)

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this clause be read a second time."

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby) : The hon. Member has recommended this clause to the Committee in a speech which, I think, contains views by no means new, and I have heard nothing from him or from elsewhere which leads me to change the opinion I have formed, that the proposed change of the law embodied in this clause is unjust and impolitic, and, if carried out, would not attain the object the hon. Member has in view. This it should be borne in mind is not merely a clause to prohibit colouring it is to prohibit colouring

Mr. Lambert.

in order to imitate butter, and therefore in order to make it effectual, one must, so to speak, project himself into the mind of the manufacturer in order to see if the colouring is not merely to make the article attractive to the purchaser—for if that were the reason the Act would be inoperative—but in order to imitate butter. That is perhaps only a technical objection, but it is one which makes this clause as framed absolutely ridiculous. I wish the House to consider what it is, on such very insufficient grounds, asked to do. The hon. Member said that butter was coloured only to a small extent. I entirely disagree with that view, for everyone knows that the butter industry is largely local in its character, and that the colouring of butter is a general practice. Neither is butter the only dairy product which is coloured. What does the hon. Member say with reference to cheese?

MR. LAMBERT : Margarine does not imitate cheese.

*MR. LONG : But the suggestion is that the colouring of one particular article should be prohibited, and I am endeavouring to explain how it is impossible to justify the prohibition by law of a manufacturing practice which is allowed with regard to other dairy products. Certain kinds of cheese are made according to the fancy of the customer, and the cheese is coloured in the factory not to imitate another cheese, but because colouring is attractive to the purchaser. In view of that, what becomes of the suggestion—endorsed, I notice by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Thanet—that the colouring is done for the mere purpose of imitation? I have inspected more samples of margarine than perhaps any other Member of this House, and the majority of samples have been coloured a kind of yellow. Is it suggested that the bulk of butter made in this country is yellow? On the contrary I believe that the greater amount of the ordinary butter consumed is white in colour. I am well aware that some of my hon. friends on this side of the House are in favour of this clause. I deeply regret it, and for the reason that in a matter of this kind it seems to me that some sections of the agricultural interest decline to profit by experience. I have been long enough a Member of this House to re-

member the controversies over the old malt duty. At that time the agricultural interest took practically the same line as they are adopting to-day in regard to this colouring question. When in 1880 Mr. Gladstone abolished the malt tax, what occurred?

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): He put it on in other ways.

***MR. LONG**: Yes, and does my right hon. friend think that the House is going to allow the colouring of margarine to be prohibited, and not at the same time prohibit the colouring of other dairy products? No, if you do it in one case, it is only just and right the prohibition should apply to other agricultural produce. We know what was the result of substituting the free mash-tun for the Malt Tax; it enabled many other articles to be used in the manufacture of beer, and I venture to assert that hon. Members now are running the same risk as they then ran. They are under a delusion if they fancy the prohibition will be confined to margarine. It is a great mistake to maintain that this margarine is a competitor of butter. There is no doubt that a great deal of margarine made in a particular way has been sold as butter. The object of the Bill is to make this impossible in future; but if this ridiculous clause is to be incorporated in the Bill, this kind of fraud will not be checked. The Amendment would indeed be fatal to the Bill, and the Government cannot accept it, because its effect would be to dislocate a very great trade which supplies a vast number of consumers in the country, and which produces a valuable article of food for the people. I have been told the working men of England desire that this prohibition should be made. I doubt whether the working men have realised what are the alternatives presented to them; but, even if they have, I should prefer to take the opinion of the housewives first upon this question, and I am sure they would hold a very different opinion, for they know how desirable it is to be able to obtain a cheap and wholesome article of food. I maintain that we ought not to interfere with the margarine trade unless we are satisfied that by no other means can we put down fraud. I am satisfied we can put it down by this legislation, whereas the proposed clause would not be workable at all. I earnestly ask

agricultural Members not to take a step which would be prejudicial to their best interests, and fail in the object they have in view.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): The first question I ask myself in approaching the consideration of this question is, What is the object of the Bill? The reply is that it is to put down fraud. The next question is whether the provisions in the Bill as at present framed are sufficient to secure that end. I think that they are. Fraud has arisen from various causes, but the main one has been the failure of the local authorities to put in force the existing law. Again, margarine mixtures have been made which have been sold in the place of butter at butter prices, and under this Bill the making of such mixtures is to be prohibited. That provision will, I think, have a very beneficial effect. Further, the Bill provides that where a man persistently commits fraud he will subject himself to very heavy penalties, and eventually find himself in prison. What would be the effect if the proposition of my hon. friend were carried? In the first place, it would interfere with a perfectly legitimate trade. I do not say it would destroy it, but it would deal it a severe blow. The margarine manufacturer, be it remembered, is entitled to protection just as much as any other manufacturer. It is not the manufacture of the article which is complained of, it is the manner of its distribution, and I submit that this Bill is ample to put a stop to the fraud which has been carried on in the past. As the right hon. Gentleman has rightly said—if you prohibit colouring in one direction you must prohibit it all round. I wonder if the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Thanet is aware of the enormous number of food products which are coloured. I dare say he consumes many of them daily and raises no objection. He himself yesterday spoke of ices being coloured; would he look at a strawberry ice if it were not of a strawberry colour? It is admitted on all hands that butter and cheese are largely coloured, not with the idea of concealment, but in order to meet the demands of particular markets. If you send to Manchester a highly-coloured cheese they will not look at it. Tinned vegetables and fruits from France are artificially coloured so as to make them resemble

the fresh vegetable ; maccaroni, tapioca, Demerara sugar, and many other articles of daily consumption are coloured. I have the greatest sympathy with, and respect for, the feelings of agriculturists on this question, but I say they are taking a wrong view on this particular point, and if once the principle for which they are contending is admitted, it will prove highly destructive to more than one industry.

MR. GRANT LAWSON (York, N.R., Thirsk) : In my Division the farmer is the predominant partner, and I should not like, therefore, to record my vote on this subject without explaining my reasons for it. I spoke at length on the motion for the Second Reading. But what is the present position ? We have just had a very vigorous speech from my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Agriculture, who has told us that if this clause is carried he is prepared to drop this Bill.

***MR. LONG** : Hear, hear.

MR. GRANT LAWSON : That is a serious fact, and as agriculturists we must view the situation from that point of view. We are in the position of the dog in the fable which lost the substance in trying to get the shadow. In this Bill we have something substantial, but if we grasp at the shadow we stand a good chance of losing the substance. If, in order to secure the greater advantage offered by the clause of my hon. friend, we adopt a course which destroys the whole Bill, I think it will be a very unwise proceeding. There seems to be some confusion here between means and ends. The end to be aimed at is to stop fraud. The prohibition of colouring is only one means of stopping fraud. It may be the best, but on this occasion it is not the best, because if we insist on it we lose the whole Bill. There are other means of stopping fraud, such as an active and vigorous administration of the other clauses of this Bill. My right hon. friend, as every dog owner knows, is a very vigorous and able administrator of the law, and when once he has started the department in the right direction we may look for desirable results. For these reasons I cannot support the clause. A suggestion has been made that it is embodied in the programme of the National Agricul-

Mr. Kearley.

tural Union, to which many hon. Members pledged themselves at the last General Election. I have no such recollection. I think the item has since been added, and I would point out that if we pledged ourselves to the programme as it then existed, we did not bind ourselves to accept everything that might subsequently be added to it. Even if I had pledged myself to the principle, under the altered circumstances I should deem it my duty to vote against the clause rather than risk losing the whole Bill.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) : The hon. Member for South Molton suggests that those who oppose this clause have not tasted margarine. I have myself tasted margarine, and think it a most excellent food. I find it wholesome, nutritious, and, generally speaking, infinitely better than butter. I will not say better than the best butter, but you very seldom get the best butter, and good margarine is undoubtedly better than second-rate butter. My hon. friend seems to have margarine positively on the brain. He seems to imagine it is some horrible, noxious compound which is not fit for human beings to eat. He said it consisted of fat, cotton seed oil, and milk. What objection has he to either of those three wholesome ingredients ? The truth is, that it does not depend upon what the compound was made of originally, but upon what it is in the end. Margarine is composed of the same ingredients as butter, less butterine. Butterine is so volatile that it disappears entirely when the weather is a little warm, and it has absolutely no taste ; there is a slight smell and that is all. Beyond that there is not the slightest difference between margarine and butter. The fact is, we have improved upon the cow. At the present time the cow is almost a played-out animal as far as making butter is concerned. Does my hon. friend really imagine that when a cow eats grass that grass at once becomes milk, and that out of that milk you get butter ? Not a bit of it. It passes through a process as in a factory. The grass becomes chyle, the chyle passes into the veins, in the veins is deposited a certain amount of fat, that fat passes through the lacteal glands, and you get milk ; out of the milk you take the fat and you get butter. In a factory you put the same ingredients which produce the same effect,

with the exception of the butterine, and you get precisely the same article. In one case you get your stuff from the tissues of the animal, in the other you get it from the blood and the interior of the animal. My hon. friend alluded to that fact and said : "The difference between milk and other products is this : it is true that milk comes out of the cow, but it does not come out of a dead cow, whereas the fat does come out of a dead cow." What is the distinction ? When milk ceases to appertain to the cow, it is, to all intents and purposes, just as dead as the fat out of a cow ; and if my hon. friend is prepared to eat dead meat, such as beef or mutton, why should he not, even assuming that milk is dead, drink dead milk ? My hon. friend's Amendment is specially in regard to the colouring matter. He asked me if I had ever made butter. I have never made butter, but I have tasted both it and margarine, and I do know something about it. The peculiarity of the agricultural mind is that it imagines that unless a man goes into a field and keeps cows, he knows absolutely nothing about the matter. My hon. friend absolutely questioned whether butter is coloured. I will tell him what is done, and then he can go back to Somerset and acquaint the agriculturists of the fact. I will take Yorkshire. In Yorkshire there is no such thing as yellow butter in winter. When the animal is fed with dry food the butter is absolutely white. I do not live in Yorkshire myself, but so as not to prejudice my case, I yesterday asked an eminent agriculturist on the other side of the House, who has a great many cows and farms, to tell me what happened in Yorkshire. He said to me, "I make an enormous lot of butter, which in winter is all white, and if I were to sell it in Leeds as white butter I should get twopence per pound less than if I sold it as yellow butter." "What do you do ?" I asked. "I put a few carrots or some saffron into the churn, and it comes out yellow butter, and sells at twopence per pound more than white butter." It is perfectly absurd to tell us that there is any fraud on the part of the margarine people in colouring the product yellow, when the butter people themselves do the same thing, and get twopence per pound for doing so. Then there was the argument about the poor man. I thought my hon. friend was going behind our old friend "Three acres and a cow." He

told us what would happen. "Here is a poor man with his three acres, we want him to get his three acres"—undoubtedly ; "we want him to get his cow"—undoubtedly ; "but unless you insist upon margarine not being coloured yellow, all our work and labour in getting this gentleman his three acres and a cow is useless, because he will not be able to sell his produce at a profit." The poor man naturally wishes to get his food as cheaply as possible. I have pointed out that margarine, as far as taste and wholesomeness are concerned, is just as good as butter. The poor man, if he is a wise poor man, buys margarine instead of butter, but he likes it better yellow than white. I do not know why, but he does—it appeals more to his eye. Why should my hon. friend deprive every poor man in the country of the pleasure which he derives when he spreads this compound upon his bread from seeing it is yellow instead of white ? He says, "In order that there may be no fraud; in order that he should not buy margarine when he fancies he is buying butter." But I suspect the poor man knows perfectly well what he is buying. There is quite sufficient competition in the trade to prevent margarine being sold as butter. The poor man goes into a shop where margarine is openly sold ; he is not in any sort of way defrauded. This special legislation in regard to margarine is an insidious attempt at protection on the part of my hon. friend and his supporters. The person he wants to benefit is not the poor consumer, but his friend with the three acres and two or three cows. I daresay if margarine could be driven out of the field, that person would to a certain extent benefit, and for that reason my hon. friend has gone out of his way to abuse and to vilify this excellent and wholesome compound. For my part, I am for the poor man being able to get an article precisely the same as butter, except that it comes out of a factory instead of out of a cow. He can get that for sixpence, whereas he would have to pay tenpence or one shilling for his butter, which means a saving to him of fourpence. It seems to be supposed that unless this clause passes, the Bill will be absolutely useless. The hon. Gentleman does not say so—

MR. LAMBERT : I want to make it a better Bill.

MR. LABOUCHERE: He wants to heap impediment upon impediment; he wants to make it difficult for the trade of the country to be carried on because he imagines he will make the Bill a better one. I think the Bill has already gone a little too far, but I am certainly not going to better it in the way here proposed. I have risen mainly because I think it is a pity that people should read in the Debates of this House the insinuations that they would be foolish, if their means are not large, to buy margarine. I have got neither a margarine factory nor a single cow, so that I am entirely unprejudiced; I speak entirely for the consumers of towns, and I believe they ought not to be told that margarine is a useless and bad article of food.

*MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I would like to answer certain expressions which fell from the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill with regard to the Amendment. I do not approach the question from the point of view of the agriculturalist only; I believe it is a question in which the great body of consumers are interested as well. I sent a letter to certain representatives of working men's associations in the country, asking whether the members of that particular society were in favour of giving effect to the recommendations of the Select Committee on Food Products and Adulteration, to prevent margarine being sold as butter, and to ensure it being sold as margarine, and that its colouring and its mixture with butter should be prohibited. I had no reply taking exception to those proposals. I had replies from thirteen associations in favour of the proposals, representing altogether some 302,638 working men. Those replies came from different parts of the country—Glasgow, Derbyshire, Lancashire, London, Birmingham, and Nottingham—and from associations representing the mining interests, the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, shipwrights, compositors, boiler-makers, and a co-operative society, and some members of weaving societies. All these societies that replied pronounced in favour of the recommendations of the Select Committee. That is to say, associations representing over 300,000 working men have pronounced in favour of the proposals which are embodied in the clause now before the House. I understand my right hon. friend to say

that, granted that was the case, you had not to consider the working men themselves, but their wives. I did not quite grasp what he meant. Did he mean to convey that the working man would believe he was getting butter, but that his wife went behind his back and purchased margarine, which she put before her husband as butter? If he did not intend to convey that, I do not see what force his argument has. My contention would be this: I entirely agree that you do not want to prevent the sale of a wholesome article of food, if it is altogether wholesome; but if you prevent this particular substance being coloured so that it may be taken for another article, you must of necessity bring down the price of that particular article to its natural level. My opinion is, that by virtue of its fictitious colour the article has reached an artificial price, and my contention is that that price would fall at once if the article was sold in its natural colour. The interests of the wives of the working classes would undoubtedly be advantaged by the adoption of this proposition. It has been assumed in the course of these Debates, that this particular product is altogether wholesome. Is that really the case? I am anxious to have that proved, because I have in my hand a Report of a Commission appointed by the French Senate which was appointed to examine into a law containing the same provisions as my hon. friend's Amendment. This Report is extremely interesting, for it deals at length with this particular point. I take it that if margarine is produced under conditions which enable you to inspect it, and to see that proper materials are used, then you are entitled to say it is a wholesome article of food. I should like to ask if the House is aware where the larger portion of margarine comes from? The greater portion of it comes from Holland. I believe that in 1896 there were 773,991 cwts. of oleo-margarine imported into Holland, while Holland exported something like 100,000 cwts. over and above that amount of the finished article, margarine, to this country. I find that the United States in the same year exported 922,116 cwts. of oleo-margarine. Now, as Holland is the great margarine manufacturing country, we may take it that the greater portion of supply from the United States went to Holland in that year; that it was made up into margarine in Holland,

and then exported to this country. I would like to ask my right hon. friend if there is any inspection of margarine factories in Holland, and can he assure us that the article sent over here is thoroughly wholesome for the consumer. I would further ask whether there is any inspection of the oleo-margarine factories in the United States.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member appears to be now dealing with the whole question of the manufacture of margarine. The only question now before the House is the desirability of preventing it being coloured.

*MR. YERBURGH: Might I be permitted to point out that the hon. Member for Northampton has laid great stress upon the fact that this was a very wholesome article of food, and that by preventing the sale of this article we are injuring the working classes of this country? I was endeavouring to show that, in the opinion of the experts of another country, there are good grounds for believing that this article is produced under conditions which would make it absolutely unfit for human food.

*MR. SPEAKER: But that will hardly justify an inquiry upon this Amendment into the whole manufacture of the article.

*MR. YERBURGH: May I be allowed to state, in the first place, that a large portion of this margarine is produced under conditions over which we have no control whatever; and in the second place, as the expert authorities abroad have shown, it is produced under conditions which interfere with its digestibility and its nutritive properties. Therefore I say that there are good grounds for believing that this particular article of food, which is being accepted as most nutritious and wholesome, ought to be regarded with the greatest suspicion. I do not say that this applies to its production in this country, because as produced in England it may be the most wholesome article possible; but I think that a large portion of that which is produced abroad ought to be very carefully inspected. We are told that if we vote for this particular clause, we shall probably lose the Bill altogether. I do not think that is a fair threat to hold over us.

*MR. LONG: I have not the slightest desire to threaten the hon. Member, but what I said was that the Government decline to take the responsibility for such a proposal.

*MR. YERBURGH: As far as I have been able to ascertain the views of the working classes, they are in favour of such a clause. As regards the agricultural interest, which my right hon. friend so ably represents, and whose interest he has so thoroughly at heart, I wish to point out that the whole of the agricultural interest are in favour of this proposal; and, to go further afield, Belgium, France, and Denmark have all adopted similar propositions. The only difference made by Denmark—which is dependent upon its agriculture—is that they have adopted a varying scale of colour for butter and margarine which enables you to colour your margarine up to a certain point. This is a compromise which I offer for the consideration of my right hon. friend. It has been adopted by Denmark, where it has been found to be of the greatest service. If the right hon. Gentleman can see his way to accept a compromise of that sort, I should be disposed to vote against this clause as presented at present; but if the right hon. Gentleman cannot see his way to accept this compromise, I shall feel bound to support this clause.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I desire to allude to the remark made by the last speaker in reference to a compromise. I happened to be the Chairman of the Select Committee when that evidence was given, and the impression I formed was that to adopt the scale in force in Denmark would land us in very serious difficulties. I cannot congratulate the hon. Member upon the force of his argument, when he says that his view is supported by the working classes, because the societies he alludes to would represent some 300,000 persons. From this he draws the inference that 7,000,000 working men are on his side.

*MR. YERBURGH: The working men Representatives in the House have spoken in favour of the clause.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER: I believe some of them will have an opportunity of expressing their opinion during this

Debate. I feel pretty confident that the 7,000,000 workmen in this country are not anxious that the sale of a cheap and wholesome article of food should be interfered with. The whole evidence that we had before the Select Committee in reference to margarine was in favour of its wholesomeness, and we had not a single piece of evidence against the wholesome character of this product, made, as it is, under special precautions from selected fats of good animals. I believe it is a wholesome article of food. Being convinced of the wholesome character of the food, I should strongly deprecate any interference with its manufacture which would make it less pleasant to the eye. The man who eats margarine has just as much right to have it coloured as the man who eats butter, and it is, after all, only a question of fancy. In some parts of the country, such as Devonshire and Cambridgeshire, the butter produced there is of a deep rich colour, whilst in other parts of the country it is of a much paler colour. If you allow colouring for one kind of food, you have no right to limit it for another kind. I believe that if we attempt to interfere in any way with the production of this food we shall be doing a serious injury to the working classes, and we shall be trying to put back the clock of progress as regards the artificial production of food. If carried, I regard this Amendment as one which cuts at all artificial food production in this connection, and it is unworthy of the time in which we live.

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER: The hon. Gentleman has just argued that the consumption of margarine is perfectly legitimate in itself. This Amendment does not suggest any impediment in the way of the manufacture or consumption of margarine. What it does propose is that margarine should not be sold in such a form as to imitate butter. Nobody wants to place any check whatever upon colouring, so long as such colouring is not had recourse to for the purpose of deceiving purchasers. I have been reminded that strawberry ices would come within the meshes of the Amendment placed by the hon. Member for Dundee next on the Paper. If such ices are produced from ingredients other than that which is indicated, that would be a distinct fraud. The hon. Member for Devonport stated that Demerara sugar is coloured; but

it is not sold as any other article than what it is. It is not coloured to represent any other article than Demerara sugar. If any other article is so coloured as to represent something else, that is a fraud. Chicory is an article of food that has been similarly dealt with, and the proposal in this clause is to place margarine in the same category that chicory has for several years occupied, in order that the purchaser must not be led to think that he is buying something else. My right hon. friend the President of the Board of Agriculture has compared this to the Malt Tax. I will not go into that question now, though I may observe, in passing, that I was not one of those who were taken in by the abolition of the so-called Malt Tax. I said at the time it was a fraud on the public, because the tax was reimposed in a more objectionable form. I know there were others taken in, but I am glad to say I was not. My right hon. friend pointed to that tax as a case in point; but is it any reason for rejecting this clause that Mr. Gladstone took in a certain number of people by transferring a tax from one pocket to another? Then my right hon. friend says, "Oh, if you force this clause upon us, it stands to reason it will be carried still further." I must remind my right hon. friend that the repeal of the Malt Tax was a fiscal question, but that is not the case at present. Nobody means to stop the colouring of articles simply with a view to interfering with the trade in them, but in order to prevent a false impression being created in the minds of purchasers. My right hon. friend talks about the feeling of the [working classes in this matter. He passed by the hon. Members for Morpeth and Battersea, and the other hon. Members who spoke on behalf of large sections of the working classes, and more than that he passed by the working men themselves, and constituted himself the exponent of the views of the wife of the working man. I should like to know what credentials my right hon. friend has received to speak on behalf of the working women of England in this matter. Why does my right hon. friend imagine that domestic discord will follow if the clause is accepted? If the opinion of the wives of the working men of this country had been so pronounced as my right hon. friend appears to assume, without any authority, why have

Sir Walter Foster.

we not heard of it long ago? The representatives in this House who speak on behalf of large sections of the working classes do not apprehend any such consequences as my right hon. friend represents would follow. He has told us very plainly—he did not say it at all in any discourteous manner, or in any sense offensive to our ideas of Parliamentary traditions—that if the House, by a majority, expressed a preference for the clause, the Government would drop the Bill. I venture to think my right hon. friend has spoken without having consulted his colleagues upon the issue raised. In saying that if the House of Commons displayed anything approximating to general approval of this clause that the Government would drop the Bill, I think my right hon. friend has taken it upon himself to come to a decision as to what he would do under circumstances which have not arisen. But if such circumstances did arise, my right hon. friend would do nothing of the kind. Not a single argument has been really brought forward against the principle of this clause. We have had adequate tributes to the virtues of margarine, and no one seriously questions the nutritious character of that remarkable commodity, but no argument has been addressed to us as to why a purchaser of margarine or of butter should not be clearly informed as to what he is buying; and if any ingredient is coloured in such a way as to have the effect of concealing from a purchaser what that commodity is, the sooner Parliament interferes the better.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I have listened with interest to this Debate, and when I saw my right hon. friend the Member for Thanet rising, I immediately perceived the cloven hoof. I have been a great many years in this House with my right hon. friend, and I have seldom heard him speak—I have always listened to him with pleasure—except when he saw an opportunity of getting in the thin end of the wedge of protection. Does anyone believe that this proposal is made except for the purpose of diminishing the supply of a commodity which is used as a substitute for butter?

***MR. JAMES LOWTHER**: A large quantity of butter is imported as well as margarine, and if I saw an opportunity

of putting a duty upon both I would be very glad to do it, but that has nothing to do with this clause.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: The time is not quite ripe for that, and therefore that is what I would call the thick end of the wedge. My right hon. friend just now is concerned with the thin end only. Can anyone honestly deny that the hope and expectation of those who support this clause is that its effect will be to diminish the quantity of the article sold instead of butter? The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill has made, in my opinion, a very sound and a very courageous speech. He has said—and it is perfectly true—that if you forbid the colouring of one thing you must forbid the colouring of all. As regards butter—yellow butter in the market seems the natural product from a high class of cow; but the butter produced at various seasons of year, and from an inferior class of cow, does not look like the superior article, and therefore it is a widely extended and almost universal practice to colour English butter up to the mark, which represents it to be of a higher quality than it really is, and it fetches a higher price in consequence. All modern manufacturers endeavour to make their products look something better than they really are, in order to obtain higher prices and larger profits. To suppose a demand of this kind can be made with regard to a single article is perfectly absurd. What the right hon. Gentleman has said on the subject is quite true. The hon. Member for East Northamptonshire is also perfectly right with regard to the deliberate misrepresentation of margarine as being what it is not; but what does my right hon. friend the Member for Thanet say with reference to English butter of an inferior quality being made to look like butter of a superior quality in order to fetch a higher price? This seems to me a proposal which in principle is absolutely wrong, and which, if it produced the effect it is expected to produce, would be an injustice. I shall certainly support the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.): I desire to most strongly support the Government. In fact, I do not think it would be possible to strike a greater blow at British agriculture than by adopting this clause. You would be putting British agriculturists in the

position of saying, "We are engaged in very great competition with the margarine manufacturers, and we therefore appeal to this House to take a step which will have the effect of destroying an industry which is in opposition to us." A blow of that sort would be one of the worst that could be delivered at British agriculture. I know there is a great amount of support for this clause in certain quarters. A few days ago I had an opportunity of talking with a large dairy farmer in the country. He told me he was very much in favour of this clause. He said "Oh, we have very great competition with the margarine manufacturers." I, for one, as an agriculturist—though I may not have as much knowledge as other hon. Gentlemen, yet my interest is as great—strongly support the Government in this matter, and I should like to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman on the stand he has taken.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, West): A very important point was raised in regard to the colouring of margarine to represent butter, and that was that it enabled the manufacturers of that commodity to raise the price and palm it off as butter. The speech which made the greatest impression on me in opposition to the Amendment was that of the hon. Member for Northampton, who came before the House of Commons as a brilliant example of the excellence of margarine. He said he had been fed on margarine of most excellent quality, and that he liked it very well. Of course, I cannot myself speak from experience, for I do not know that I have ever eaten margarine; but, considering the excellent effect it has had upon the hon. Member's constitution, he must furnish a splendid advertisement for that article. The hon. Member for Northampton spoke of the colouring of butter by putting carrots into the churn, and I hope that the idea will not be lost on the butter makers of Ireland, as it struck me that it was a splendid one. Butter, no doubt, is artificially coloured, but I object to the colouring of butter as much as to the colouring of margarine. In Ireland we find it is not necessary to colour the best butter; and we insist that this colouring of margarine to represent butter is not honest trading, but simply a proceeding to enable a fraud to be perpetrated on the public. Any measure which has for its object the securing of

good, pure food for the people of this country will have my support. We have been told that all the margarine that is made, or is likely to be made, would not compete with butter, and that therefore there is no reason why we should fight so hard in behalf of butter as against margarine. But in nine cases out of ten margarine is sold as butter, and for that very reason I should have liked to see this Bill go even further than it does. We have been told that there are a great many other things, which are in daily use, that are coloured as well as margarine; and reference was made to tinned French vegetables. But my contention is that all articles which are coloured to represent what they are not ought to be put down. We are not opposed to the manufacture of margarine, but to the selling of margarine as butter. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill says there is no reason why margarine should not be coloured. Be it so; the manufacturers may colour it red, blue, or orange, so long as they do not colour it the colour of butter.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the colour of butter?

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: Good butter is the colour of that Mace [pointing to the Mace on the Table].

MR. JEFFREYS (Hants, N): Although I am going to vote against my right hon. friend in charge of the Bill on this point, I am quite sure that all the farmers are very thankful to him for having introduced it; and whether we carry this Amendment or not, I hope the Bill will in a short time become an Act of Parliament. The hon. Member for Northampton contrasted the various properties of butter and margarine. The farmers, no more than I do, wish to go into that. The farmers do not deny that margarine is a very wholesome diet, but they insist that margarine should be sold as margarine instead of as butter, and at double its real price. I hope hon. Gentlemen will recognise that in voting for this Amendment they are not voting to stop the sale of margarine, but only to stop the sale of margarine as butter. Some hon. Gentlemen drew attention to the colouring of cheese. I would remind the House that cheese is not coloured in order to represent some-

thing else. Gloucester cheese, for instance, is highly coloured in order that the cheese may be sold and known as Gloucester cheese. The colouring is a particular trade-mark, and therefore there is no fraud in the transaction at all. Dutch cheese is also coloured, but it is never sold as anything else than Dutch cheese. As I have said, these cheese colourings are trade marks. If we could only stop this fraud, it would not matter what colour margarine was. My right hon. friend has undertaken to stop the fraud. He has undertaken a very large task, and I hope he will succeed. But whether margarine is coloured or not, he is trying to stop it by methods quite different from those which are employed in foreign countries. I never wish to hold up foreign countries for imitation, but I do say that nearly all the margarine is made abroad, and that there they take very good care not to allow it to be coloured to imitate butter. In France under no circumstances may colouring matter be added to margarine. What is that for? It is in order to stop fraud. But as soon as it is exported to this country margarine is coloured to imitate butter, and is sold as butter. I wish hon. Gentlemen would more often read the reports of the cases which are brought before the police courts in London relating to the fraudulent sale of margarine as butter. I can assure them that every week there are cases, and sometimes a whole string of cases, where men are prosecuted for the fraudulent sale of margarine and heavily fined. But I am told that these men resort to the practice of fraud on such a large scale, that although they may be fined £20, they make more than five times that sum in a very short time, and are, therefore, easily able to pay. But let me go on to Belgium. A great deal of margarine is made in Belgium, but it must not be coloured except with such matters, and to such a degree, as may be authorised by the Minister of Agriculture. In Denmark margarine must not be of a deeper colour than certain shades of yellow. In Italy colouring matter may not be added to make margarine resemble natural butter. In Russia margarine may not be coloured so as to give it the appearance of real butter. In Germany the colouring of margarine is not absolutely prohibited, but all margarine must contain not less than ten parts by weight of sesame oil to every 100 parts of fats and oils used in

the preparation of margarine. Practically, therefore, the colouring of margarine to imitate butter is prohibited in France, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, and Russia. That is all we desire to secure by this Amendment. I can only hope, in conclusion, that this Bill will become law, and that the fraudulent dealing in margarine may be stopped.

MR. COLVILLE (Lanark, N.E.): A great deal has been said by hon. Gentlemen as to protecting the interests of the working men. But I take it that if this new clause were added to the Bill, the working men might very well judge for themselves what is the most wholesome and desirable article of diet. Any attempt to restrict the sale of margarine would be looked upon as a distinct return to Protection. They can themselves judge whether they wish to buy pure butter or this article which has become so popular, and which is not merely used by the working classes, but to a very considerable extent by those who do not like to be so described. Not merely inferior butter, but some of the very highest class butters have to be coloured in order to make a market. Some of the very highest class butters in Scotland are highly coloured, and that not because they are in any sense improved by the colouring, but because they are more popular in the market. If the hon. Member who moved this new clause was willing to add to it a provision prohibiting the colouring of all other articles of diet, one could understand the consistency of such a clause; but so long as he attempts to deal with one class of food to the disadvantage of another, I think it is the duty of every Member, especially of those who seek to represent the masses of the community, to oppose this Amendment.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): I naturally approach this subject from the point of view of the agriculturist, but I think experience has taught us that it is hardly possible to put the agricultural interest in a worse strait than by opposing it to any measure which would be for the benefit of the community at large. I would strongly, therefore, warn my brother agriculturists to consider whether they will be wise in taking up an attitude which practically pits the agricultural interest against the

interest of the masses. I feel convinced that at this moment the masses of the community are in far more prosperous circumstances than the agricultural community, and, other things being equal, I should have been very glad indeed to see my way to support the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman on the other side of the House. But it seems to me that hon. Gentlemen opposite who are arguing against the Amendment have lost sight of one important point. We are not instructed by the agricultural community to make a crusade against the colouring of margarine, except in so far as it amounts to the fraudulent sale of that article. There is unquestionably a very strong desire that the fraudulent sale of margarine as butter should be stopped. The right hon. Gentleman who has framed this Bill undertakes to deal with the fraudulent part of this question. He thinks that, by the method he has introduced in this Bill, he will be able to check, restrain, and put an end to the fraudulent selling of margarine as butter. If that can be effected, surely our object is achieved. If that object is not achieved, then we shall stand upon very strong ground when we come and ask for the amendment of this Bill in the direction we desire. Therefore, although I am naturally prejudiced in favour of this Amendment, I cannot but recognise that the argument is very strong against it, and I think that I shall best consult the interests of agriculture and of fair play, on which agriculture depends, by giving the Bill a chance as it stands, and not supporting the Amendment.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): I should like the House of Commons to look at this question from the standpoint of those who will be compelled to carry out the Act. I have given some little attention to this subject as a medical officer of health who carried out the old Act, and also from the scientific standpoint, and I want to point out the impossibility of this clause being any good whatever. My hon. friend probably knows the kind of butter he gets from Scotch farms—it is made from Ayrshire, shorthorn, and Channel Islands cows. The butter from the Ayrshire cow is almost pure white, and in Glasgow, where nine-tenths of the butter is Ayrshire butter, the public have it absolutely white, and the

best butter is sold as nearly white as possible. Shorthorn butter is slightly yellow, and Channel Islands butter fairly yellow. Therefore, as far as these three great milk-producing cows are concerned, they all give you different standards of colour. What standard are you going to establish? Is there any regular colour for margarine? No. There is scarcely a pint of milk in London which is not coloured, and if you got it uncoloured on your breakfast table in the morning you would think some mistake had been made, and that it was of very poor quality. If you are going to prevent uniformity of colour by preventing colouring, you must apply the same process to butter, and you will prevent a great many classes of useful butter being sold.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I am the last man in the world to deny the importance of the question raised by the right hon. Gentleman, or the discussion it has given rise to, but I would venture to suggest to the House, after the arguments we have listened to, that the matter has now been thoroughly debated. So far as I am able to form an opinion, the great body of opinion is on the side of the Government; and, under the circumstances, I think, having regard to the interests of the business of the House, and the interests of all concerned in the measure, we should now proceed to a Division, if necessary, and that the House should show, as it will, I believe, by a large majority, that it supports the attitude of my right hon. friend.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): It is quite obvious that the House has become weary of this discussion, and I merely desire to say, that though I have an Amendment upon this point, as I am desirous of seeing the Bill pass, I shall not move it.

MR. STRACHEY (Somerset, S.): There is only one point which I wish to raise. I agree entirely with my right hon. friend the Member for West Monmouth, that we must not look upon this measure as a Protectionist measure, and, for my part, I have always looked at it from the point of view of the consumer. I also agree with my right hon. friend when he says he is against deliberate mis-

Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.

representation, and that we ought not to allow butter or dairy produce to be coloured to deceive the consumer, any more than we ought to allow the colouring of margarine for the same purpose. The point I wish to call attention to is that representative farmers and others in Devonshire have declared, and I believe in public, that they do not use any colouring matter, and they are prepared to accept any prohibition which may be ordered. All we want is that margarine should be sold on its merits, and we are, in the West of England, prepared to sell ordinary produce on its merits.

MR. KILBRIDE (Galway, N.): We have been asked why we support the Amendment of the hon. Member for South Molton, and it is perfectly evident that those who ask us have not read the evidence taken before the Committee upstairs. That evidence, which was mostly with regard to adulteration and fraud, compelled the Committee to come to the conclusion that, so long as margarine was allowed to look like butter, it would be impossible to stop fraud. Professor Lawrence opposed the colouring of margarine because it gave the trader facilities to impose upon the consumer by giving him an article which was not what it professed to be; whilst Mr. Hamilton said, if margarine was sold as margarine it would command a large sale, and the prohibition against colouring the margarine would not have the effect of killing the trade at all. It would only prevent the retailer making an inordinate profit by the fraud he commits by palming it off as butter. It is for that reason that we shall vote for the Amendment if we are compelled to go to a Division.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Bright-side): It has been stated by the hon. Member for Chester that the overwhelming bulk of the working classes are in favour of this Amendment. From the societies he mentioned, he evidently means organised labour. I would like to point out how very misleading the hon. Member's remarks are. In the first place, the question submitted to these societies was of a kind which laid down as a premiss that it is wrong to force on a working man a fraudulent article. It then ingeniously led up to the conclusion that the only possible precaution to take was by way of an Amendment of this

kind. But other precautions are taken in this Bill, so the question put to these working men is of no value at all. The hon. Gentleman cannot tell us even whether this question was put at mass meetings, branch meetings, or executive meetings; and even if it was put to all, there are only 300,000 men in these societies, and that is only one-fifth of organised labour. One point I wish to draw attention to is, the societies the hon. Gentleman addressed were the skilled workmen—they are not driven to buy margarine; but there is a class whose views I desire to voice in this Debate, and that is the unskilled labourers, whose precarious employment only returns some 13s. or 14s. a week. What will they say if their Parliamentary friends in this House tell them that their margarine can be painted grey, or drab, or black. Is it fair?

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): Nobody suggested it.

MR. MADDISON: My hon. friend has only just come in, and I do not think he is omniscient. The alternative that you offer this class is, "You can colour margarine any colour you like, except butter colour." I wonder how hon. Gentlemen would like to sit down to bread with margarine painted green. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will maintain his position. I object to another portion of the Bill, but if this proposal were passed it would be a wrong act, not to the skilled artisans, but to the poorest of the poor.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie): There are two kinds of fraud which this Bill ought to stop. There is the fraud of substituting margarine for butter—we all want to stop that; and there is the worse fraud by which margarine is sold at about double its proper price. In the name of the class for whom the hon. Gentleman opposite professes to speak, I protest against that. Why is it desired to colour this substance? Because it makes it look more like butter. The colouring makes it not a whit more digestible or pleasant-flavoured, but if you prevent colouring, margarine will be sold at fourpence or fivepence instead of tenpence or a shilling per lb. as it sometimes is at present.

*MR. CHANNING : I should not have taken part in this discussion but for the statements of my hon. friend the Member for the Brightside Division of Sheffield. I think he is wrong in thinking that working men support his view. Some years ago I took part in a very important deputation to the President of the Local Government Board on this very question, a deputation organised by the Central Chamber of Agriculture. Prominent in the deputation were representatives of the whole of the great co-operative societies representing hundreds of thousands of working men, the movement with which my hon. friend claims some connection. I should like him to explain how it was that representatives of the great co-operative societies came and joined us in urging the imperative necessity of dealing with these frauds, and dealing with them on the programme which included the provision suggested in this present proposal. The hon. Member for Brightside has put his case for the support of the Government in resisting this Amendment on the one plain issue that the unskilled labourer will be deprived of a cheap and wholesome article. How can he establish that case unless he can show that margarine is sold all over the country under its own name and at its true value ? It is not sold at its true value except in a very few shops. I believe that three-fourths of the margarine in this country is sold as butter, and at butter prices. I have taken the trouble to go into the figures, with which I cannot now trespass on the time of the House, but I came to a decided conclusion it would not be rash to estimate that that means a fine, and a fine mainly imposed upon the very class for whom my hon. friend pleads, of £1,500,000 per annum. I should unhesitatingly support the Amendment, because I believe we shall be protecting the pocket of the poorer classes by securing the fullest possible precautions

against these frauds, the greatest instrument in the perpetration of which is undoubtedly the colouring of margarine to resemble butter. I repudiate with scorn the suggestion that the article should be coloured some offensive hue. My own view is that very likely we shall arrive at some such result as obtains in Denmark, where they are allowed to colour their margarine to secure an attractive appearance, but are simply prohibited from colouring it the same shade as butter. The right hon. Gentleman has appointed a Committee to inquire into this question of colouring, as well as the question of preservatives. I hope we may look forward to that Committee conducting an impartial and exhaustive inquiry into this question of colouring, into the procedure adopted in other countries, and into the whole of the legal aspects of that question, so that if the Government is against us to-day it may not be ultimately against some reasonable proposal in this direction. The cry of "Protection" has been raised, but who are the protectionists ? It seems to me that they are those who are going to maintain this instrument in the hands of the great fraudulent manufacturers and the whole army of retailers who are demoralised and debauched by those manufacturers into committing this fraud, and are guaranteed as to fines and penalties by those who instigate these frauds. By rejecting this Amendment you are protecting those capitalists who are levying an enormous blackmail upon the consumers of the country, and especially upon the poorer classes of consumers who cannot protect themselves, that is where protection really comes in under this Bill.

Question put—

The House divided :—Ayes, 68 ; Noes, 297. (Division List, No. 276.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Barlow, John Emmott
Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bill, Charles
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
Channing, Francis Allston
Charrington, Spencer

Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
Crilly, Daniel
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Finch, George H.

Flynn, James Christopher
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Gunter, Colonel
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Hardy, Laurence
Hobhouse, Henry
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick

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Kilbride, Denis
 Kitson, Sir James
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent)
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn's. C.)
 McDermott, Patrick
 McGhee, Richard
 M'Leod, John
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Molley, Bernard Charles
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
 Morrell, George Herbert

Morris, Samuel
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arrol, Sir William
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederick Gorell
 Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. S. (Hunts)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Bhownaggree, Sir M. M
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
 Brassey, Albert
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burt, Thomas
 Butcher, John George
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Galloway)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carnichael, Sir T. D. Gibson
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
 Caunter, Richard Knight
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birn.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc't)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh)
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)

Clough, Walter Owen
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
 Colston, Charles E. H. Athole
 Colville, John
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
 Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Crombie, John William
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dewar, Arthur
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Drucker, A.
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. R. Douglas
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (South' ton)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Ferguson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Man.)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Godson, Sir A. Frederick
 Goldsworthy, Major-General

and Drugs Bill.

1206

Tollemache, Henry James
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H.
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Weir, James Galloway
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Lambert and Mr. Duncombe.

Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Green, W. D. (Wednesbury).
 Gretton, John
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harwood, George
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Heaton, John Henniker
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Helder, Augustus
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Hozier, Hon. J. Henry Cecil
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex),
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a.)
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sr. U.
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Kinloch, Sir J. George Smyth
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lafone, Alfred
 Langley, Batty
 Laurie, Lieut-General
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durnin (Corn.)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Leng, Sir John
 Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swan.)
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpl.)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquis of
 Lough, Thomas

Lowe, Francis William
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Killop, James
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh.)
 Morrison, Walter
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newark, Viscount
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. S.
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Percy, Earl
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)

Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Purvis, Robert
 Randell, David
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Edm. (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Soame, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spencer, Ernest
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch).

Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Trevelyn, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Ure, Alexander
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-un-L.)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, John C. (Notts.)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Woodall, William
 Woods, Samuel
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. S.-
 Wrighton, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest) : When I first placed this clause on the Paper I intended it to be a substitute for Clause 19, but according to the Rules of the House I find that my clause must be dealt with first, and Clause 19 considered separately, but it would be almost impossible even to allude to this clause without pointing out that I proposed it instead of Clause 19. The whole of the Bill really hangs on Clause 19, because it is very little use laying down what is wrong, and ought to be punished, unless we devise some means of carrying the punishments into effect. There are two troubles that local authorities have to contend with in this matter, viz., the defence of the warranty itself, and, secondly, the postponement necessitated by the dismissal of the case owing to the defence of the warranty and the time-limit laid down by the Act of 1875, and perpetuated in this Bill. You really cannot obtain a conviction against the warrantor within the time limit, and consequently this provision will be a dead

letter unless we are able either to extend the time limit or to put aside the defence of a warranty. For that reason I put this clause on the Notice Paper. I fully believe the Bill is intended to be framed in the interests of the consumer, especially the poor consumer, but at the same time all men affected by it should have justice. It is a very extreme case that a man giving a warranty for, say, a ten-gallon can of milk should be responsible for that milk when it is distributed in half-pint cans and taken out into the street. Yet so it is under the present arrangement. Therefore, I propose that only until the bulk is broken should the warranty be binding. In regard to the possibility of dealing with the warrantor, our experience is that it takes fourteen days to bring an original defendant into a police court; then he pleads a warranty, and you have to begin again against the warrantor at a distance. Twenty-eight days pass, and the proceedings fall through. Is it fair to charge local authorities with not doing their duty when

you do not give them time enough to discharge the duty you ask them to do? If Clause 19 is left as at present, you might as well throw the Bill into the fire, and therefore I beg to move this clause.

New clause—

"(1) A warranty shall only be accepted as a defence under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act in cases where the package has remained intact, and bulk has not been broken.

"(2) Where there is intention on the part of the person proceeded against to rely upon a warranty as a defence, the person so proceeded against shall forthwith, on receipt of summons, at once give written notice to the court in which proceedings are taken that he holds a warranty, and giving the name and address of the person from whom he received it, such person being a resident in the United Kingdom, and that he has sent notice of his intention to such person, and the court shall thereupon at once associate the name of the giver of such warranty as one of the defendants in the case, and proceedings shall be continued with such adjournments as the court may deem necessary for the due hearing of the case."—(General Laurie.)

brought up and read the first time.

Question proposed, "That the clause be now read a second time."

*MR. LONG: This clause would practically reverse the law in regard to the warranty, and is directly opposed to the Amendment made in the Committee upstairs. There is an inconvenience in discussing the question in this form, and I hope my hon. friend will consent to withdraw his new clause, and reserve any opinions he may have to express for the consideration of Clause 19. I hope then to be able to move an Amendment carrying out the views expressed last night—viz., that the difficulty with regard to the defence of the warranty is a very real one. It would be impossible to read a second time a clause which is diametrically opposed to the spirit and intention of Clause 19, and for the reason I have given I hope the hon. Member will withdraw it.

GENERAL LAURIE: Under the circumstances, with the assurance given by the right hon. Gentleman, I think it will best serve the interests of the House if I at once ask leave to withdraw my Amendment.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I should like to have a more explicit statement as to what will be the purport of the Amendment which the Government is going to propose on Clause 19. At present, if the defendant can prove that there was a warranty in writing, and that he sold the article in the same state in which it was received, that is held to be an answer to the *prima facie* case made out by the Crown against him. Clause 19 says that an invoice shall have the same effect as a warranty under the Act of 1875, and I agree with the right hon. Gentleman that the clause requires amending.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member will be out of order in discussing that matter now. The question before the House is whether this clause shall be read a second time.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: This clause on the Paper is being moved in lieu of Clause 19, and I have no objection to the withdrawal of the clause if we have some explicit statement.

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL (Stockton): I understand that the hon. Member has withdrawn or proposes to withdraw this clause upon the understanding which has been given by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture. The point I wish to call attention to is that this clause is a very serious alteration of the existing law, and it would be a very serious matter, because it says that the warranty must remain as long as the package remains intact. That would be very awkward in the case of many articles in the sale of which the retailer would not be protected at all. I should like some assurance from the President of the Board of Agriculture that his Amendment is not going to take the form of this clause.

*MR. LONG: I endeavoured to say as plainly as I could that the new clause proposed is one which we could in no sense accept. My hon. and gallant friend referred to certain difficulties in regard to prosecutions; that is to say, where adulteration has been proved and the liability has been shifted from the shoulders of the first person summoned to somebody else from whom a warranty is produced. We hope to put into Clause 19 some Amend-

ments which will remove that difficulty, but of course it will not proceed in the reverse direction which my hon. and gallant friend has indicated.

Motion and clause, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. SPEAKER : The Amendment standing on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for South Somerset is out of order.

MR. STRACHEY : Upon a point of order, I desire to point out that it is not a question of colouring margarine, but skinned milk.

*MR. SPEAKER : If the hon. Member is going to take a different line of argument to that which has been already taken in discussing the colouring of margarine, he will be in order.

MR. STRACHEY : I do desire to argue this from a totally different point of view. This is simply a question between the public and the dairy producers, or the men who sell dairy produce. What I am anxious to do is to prevent either the farmer or the retailer of milk, cream, condensed, separated, or skinned milk, from imposing upon the public. We have seen a most deplorable state of things in reference to young children fed upon separated milk or skinned milk without knowing that it has been coloured in such a way that it represents genuine milk. There was some very important evidence given on behalf of the Camberwell Vestry upon this point. The medical officer there said he attributed 40 per cent. of the deaths of infants in the Camberwell district to the use of this separated milk, which he said was only giving the children chalk and water. It is not only a fraud, but it causes injury and death, and 40 per cent. is a very large percentage. Besides this, the public are deceived. I do not believe that mothers would purchase this milk if they were not deceived by the colour of it, for it looks as if it was the very best milk, because there is no statement upon the tins to show what it is. I think milk ought to be sold entirely upon its merits without the addition of any colouring matter whatever. It is perfectly ridiculous to see how milk is coloured in the winter time, when we know that it is

impossible to have such a high colour without colouring. I know the right hon. Gentleman does not agree with me on this point, for he thinks his Bill is quite perfect on this matter. I am quite ready to admit that the right hon. Gentleman has conducted these proceedings both in Committee and in this House in a most able manner, and if this Bill had not been in charge of a gentleman so cognisant with agricultural matters he would have had great difficulty in piloting this Bill, and in giving his agricultural friends any benefit. I beg to move.

New clause—

"It shall be unlawful to sell or import any milk, cream, condensed, separated, or skinned milk, to which any colouring matter has been added."—(Mr. Strachey.)

brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*MR. LONG : I think the point of my hon. friend is that this milk is consumed by children, and that it is very injurious to their health and strength. I am afraid there is no doubt that there is a certain amount of consumption of skinned and separated milk by the children of the poorer classes, which is very much contrary to what one would wish, but to deal with a difficulty of this kind in a manner like this is a suggestion which I think the House will not seriously entertain. I do not know that colouring gives milk any special advantage, but if you want to deal with this question a very different method will be required to that which is now proposed. I think the House will require stronger evidence as to the effects of a prohibition of this kind before it can accept the Amendment of my hon. friend opposite.

DR. CLARK : I think if my hon. friend had limited his proposal to skinned or condensed milk something might be said for it, but the clause is for all milk and all cream, and you will be striking such a terrible blow at the dairy trade that you will be practically making a crime of it. I agree with what has been said with regard to condensed milk, and I think it is absolutely necessary that

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something further should be done. But surely you do not expect that we are going to make this revolutionary change in our system. If the colouring had done any harm then I could understand it, but simply because a certain taste in colour is at present popular, are you going to make it a crime? The result of the use of some of this condensed milk shows a terrible mortality, but that ought not to affect ordinary milk and cream.

MR. ARTHUR J. MOORE (London-derry): I cannot understand why there is such a desire on the part of those on this side of the House to protect every sort of fraud. What is the use of having this coloured milk forced upon the children? Do hon. Members not know that the very colouring matter which is put into the milk causes children to get thinner and thinner? It is a great pity that we have not got a Government in office which is not afraid to tackle this question and also to tackle the margarine question by insisting that the working classes shall have value for their money. I support my hon. friend because the more colouring matter you put in the less milk you will get.

MR. ROBSON (South Shields): It seems to me that this proposal is being contested upon grounds entirely different to those raised in considering the last clause, which was obviously an endeavour on the part of the agricultural interest, if not to destroy, to impede and hamper the trade. They coolly state that colouring the margarine injures its quality or prevents people from knowing it. It is, however, an entirely different matter when one comes to condensed milk. In this case it is the parent who is deceived into buying something which is intended for the benefit of the child, and the parent ought to be protected. The right hon. Gentleman has said that this clause is too wide in its application, but I think there is no difficulty in cutting down the clause so as to make it applicable only to condensed or separated milk. My right hon. friend asks us to reject that which he appears to admit is a beneficial clause. Why on earth should not condensed milk be sold in its original condition, so that every parent shall know by its appearance whether it is pure or not? There is no reason why any special favour should be shown to persons who put adulterated matter into milk for the pur-

pose of deceiving the purchaser. I certainly do not think that the person who adulterates condensed milk with colouring matter should be allowed to go scot free. The colouring of milk deceives the parents and involves suffering upon the children who are fed upon it, and there is no reason why any of the dairy-men who colour their milk should be protected. If it is true that the colouring of milk is a universal habit, then the legislature cannot interfere too soon to stop it.

MR. RADCLIFFE COOKE (Hereford): I desire to point out that we are dealing now with a totally different case from the colouring of margarine. The object of colouring margarine is to make it resemble butter, but nobody wants to buy milk which has been made to resemble water, or something else from which every good quality has been extracted. Margarine is a more or less wholesome product, but nobody can say that bad, weak, and injurious milk coloured to represent good milk is a good thing for anybody. In these circumstances, I think my right hon. friend ought to see that there is a considerable difference between the cases we have just been considering, and I shall vote for the Amendment of my hon. friend opposite.

***SIR WALTER FOSTER**: I should like to say a word or two with reference to this Amendment. I think the hon. Member is perfectly justified in bringing this question before the House, but I think the position is a good deal altered with reference to this milk by the first clause of the Bill. No doubt a gross fraud is being perpetrated on the public, and thousands of children are practically starved to death by being fed on condensed separated milk which is imported. This milk is bought by parents as good food for the little ones, with the result that the infants risk starvation. That is a very grave condition of affairs and ought to be stopped. I think, however, it will be stopped by the fact that the first clause insists upon this milk being labelled as "separated" or "skimmed" milk, and that will be a warning to the parents. This separated milk is made to resemble pure milk by the addition of colouring matter, and this is not only perpetrating a fraud upon the public, but it is also injuring very seriously the

health of the children. It is possible we may be able to amend the first clause so as to meet this difficulty, and there is, moreover, a Departmental Committee sitting on this very question. I am entirely with the hon. Member as far as his object is concerned, but I think at the present time it would be unwise to press the clause which he has moved.

MR. MUNTZ (Warwickshire, Tamworth) : My opinion is that if a man sells skimmed milk to represent new milk or cream he should be treated as a rogue. You prosecute a man for introducing water into milk, which is not half so injurious as this colouring matter. For my own part I entertain a very strong opinion on this matter, for I think the colouring of milk is a gross fraud. I had no idea that this fraud was being perpetrated in the country, and I venture to say that the Government ought to take the strongest steps possible to prevent the injury which is being done. If the hon. Member goes to a Division with his Amendment I shall certainly support him, but I do hope the right hon. Gentleman will do something to put an end to something which is now doing a very serious injury.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire) : No doubt it may be perfectly true to say that the colouring matter in milk is injurious to health, but this is one of the points which have been reserved for the consideration of the Committee which is now considering the whole question. In reference to milk, I think the effects of colouring have been exaggerated, for the real injury which is done to the children does not lie in the fact that the milk is coloured, but is due to the fact that the nutritious substances have been taken out of it. That is an entirely different matter to the point of colour. I myself have the strongest feeling that everything should be done to prevent parents being misled as to the nutritious quality of the milk which they purchase. It is well known that there are an enormous number of penny tins of condensed milk sold, and they are purchased by the working classes; and, of course, it is the duty of the Government to do what they can to prevent fraud in this respect. I would respectfully submit to the House that the

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question of colouring has nothing to do with this matter, and I think other provisions should be made in this Bill to ensure that the nutritious qualities are not extracted from the milk.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomery) : This colouring matter in milk is attended with very serious consequences, because it deludes the purchaser into believing that the milk which he or she is purchasing is of good quality, when it is as a matter of fact impoverished. It seems to me that this is an Amendment which ought to be accepted by the Government. My hon. friend suggested that milk in Wales is a light colour. That does not coincide with my own experience, which is that milk in Wales is like milk elsewhere. The colour depends on the time of the year and the nature of the vegetation more than anything else. What we ask for is that dealers should be compelled to sell milk as it is, not as they would wish people to believe it is. I shall be glad to support my hon. friend's Amendment.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) : As I understand it, the object of this Bill is to prevent fraud. There is no doubt whatever that there is a process by which inferior milk is made to look like good milk. That comes very suspiciously near fraud. It does seem to me to be an adulteration of milk, and it is essential in great cities that nothing should be done to milk to give it a fictitious quality. I cannot quite understand why, if we are going as far as this Bill goes now, we should be afraid to go further, and protect the consumers of milk in our great cities.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) : I think the attention of the House ought to be called to the existing law on the subject. Section 6 of the Act of 1875 provides that any person who sells prejudicially to a purchaser any article of food not as substantially described is liable to a penalty of £20. Accordingly, as far as condensed milk is concerned, the man who sells it for good milk is liable to a penalty under that Act. Section 9 of the same Act provides that no person can sell any article of food from which such a part of it has been abstracted as to render it in-

jurious, under a penalty not exceeding £20. That section applies to persons selling milk after a valuable part of it has been abstracted. The Amendment is to prevent the addition of colouring matter to milk or to condensed or separated milk. No one pretends that in the case of condensed or separated milk the addition of colouring matter does any harm. The harm is done by the fraud perpetrated in selling poor milk as if it were good milk, and that is already provided against. With regard to the proposal to penalise the addition of colouring matter, I would really suggest to the House that inasmuch as it has already decided by a large majority not to interfere with colouring matter in the case of margarine it would be a very questionable step if we were now to proceed to penalise colouring matter in the case of milk. The strongest argument, to my mind, against legislation in such a matter is that we should be only touching one part of a large subject. We cannot pick out one particular article and leave all the others alone.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): The answer to the Solicitor-General appears to me to be that confessedly the existing law has failed. It has been abundantly testified this evening that a great quantity of milk which is not nutritious is sold in defiance of the Act of 1875. That is because the class to which it is sold is

very ignorant, and does not know the provisions of the law or how to enforce it. This Amendment, however, goes further than the House is likely to go, and I think that the first clause of this Bill proposes a new remedy which is more likely to be efficacious for the protection of the humbler classes than the existing law, and we might await its operation before we attempt any alteration of the law on the general subject of colouring.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): We have been given to understand that the object of this Bill is to protect the public generally from having certain articles of food palmed off on them as of a certain quality whereas they are not of that quality. By adding colouring to milk the public are distinctly defrauded, because they are led to believe they are buying milk which is of a better quality than it is. A large number of persons who purchase milk, more especially in London, are ignorant of what good milk really is, and it is rarely that poor people in London are able to buy such milk. The dealers, by colouring poor quality milk, lead parents to believe that they are giving their children milk of first-class quality.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 57; Noes, 238. (Division List, No. 277.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)	Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)	Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Flynn, James Christopher	Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
Bartley, George C. T.	Foster, Col. W. H. (Lancaster)	Morris, Samuel
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants.)	Gretton, John	Muntz, Philip A.
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Gunter, Colonel	Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)	Gurdon, Sir William Brampton	O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Hardy, Laurence	O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
Burt, Thomas	Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.	Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Channing, Francis Allston	Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.	Pickard, Benjamin
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)	Howard, Joseph	Power, Patrick Joseph
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw. T. D.	Hudson, George Bickersteth	Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Crilly, Daniel	Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.	Robson, William Snowdon
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)	Joicey, Sir James	Tollomache, Henry James
Digby, John, K. D. Wingfield-	Jones, David Brynmor (Swan.)	Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Donelan, Captain A.	Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (Kent)	Weir, James Galloway
Doogan, P. C.	Macaleese, Daniel	Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)	M'Dermott, Patrick	TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Milner, Sir Frederick George	Mr. Strachey and Mr. Llewellyn.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas	Mollov, Bernard Charles	

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)	Arrol, Sir William	Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Allsopp, Hon. George	Asher, Alexander	Atherley-Jones, L.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Ashton, Thomas Gair	Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
 Baird, John Geo. Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Rt Hn A H Smith - (Hunts)
 Barton, Dunbar Plunkett
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. - (Bristol)
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bhowmaggree, Sir M. M.
 Bill, Charles
 Billson, Alfred
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonsor, Henry Coesmo Orme
 Boscauen, Arthur Griffith-Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, T Gibson (King's Lynn)
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Butcher, John George
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
 Campbell-Bannerman Sir H.
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r.)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
 Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
 Colville, John
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. L. H.
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Crombie, John William
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm)
 Denny, Colonel
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Dorington, Sir John Edward
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Drucker, A.
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Evershed, Sydney
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. M. (Leith)
 Ferguson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manch'r)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fitzgerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-Flannery, Sir Fortescue

Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Harwood, George
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
 Holland, Hon. L. R. (Bow)
 Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jolliffe, Hon. H. George
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hn Sir U
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Kinlock, Sir John George S.
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lafone, Alfred
 Laurie, Lieut-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lees, Sir E. (Birkenhead)
 Leng, Sir John
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'n's'a)
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lough, Thomas
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclare, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Killop, James
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mappin, Sir Frederick T.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor

Monk, Charles James
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hon. F. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Murray, Ht. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Purvis, Robert
 Randell, David
 Rankin, Sir James
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matt. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Scott, C. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
 Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbys.)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spencer, Ernest
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfr. (Merthyr)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wallace, Robert
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Woods, Samuel
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

Young, Commander(Berks, E.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Voxall, James Henry

SELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir
William Walrond and Mr.
Anstruther.

MR. STRACHEY: The Government not being ready to protect temperance drinks, perhaps they may be able to protect an alcoholic drink, although it is of a very mild character. At the present moment a very large amount of cider is produced in this country which is not made from the juice of the apple. Ingredients of a thoroughly bogus character are used, and it is in the interests of the public that only cider made from the juice of the apple should be allowed to be sold. I am quite ready to add perry, and I agree that all perry should be made from the juice of the pear. Manufacturers are so clever nowadays that they are able to produce cider and perry from other articles altogether. I beg to move the clause with the addition of the words "or perry" after "cider," and the words, "or pears" after "apples."

New clause—

"It shall be unlawful to sell or import for sale any liquid under the name of cider or perry, unless the same be made from the juice of apples or pears only."—(Mr. Strachey.)

brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. RADCLIFFE COOKE: I have great pleasure in supporting the new clause proposed by the hon. Gentleman, especially as he has moved it in the form in which my clause appears on the Paper. Cider and perry are most wholesome products, and much better than many foreign wines. The reason why we desire that these liquors should be mentioned in this Bill is that since the trade in them has increased, as it has very considerably within the last few years, it has been found profitable by some persons to produce liquors which they call cider and perry, but which do not contain a single ingredient belonging to apples or pears. About a hundred years ago or rather less, the demand for cider and perry was very considerable in Devonshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, and Herefordshire. The trade fell away in consequence of the malpractices of those

engaged in it, who adulterated it after a fashion of their own, though not so astutely as the manner now adopted. Since the trade has revived persons have endeavoured to manufacture so-called cider. I have several specimens of labels taken from so-called cider now on the market. One label is marked "Champagne Cider, Superior Quality." I had a bottle of that liquor analysed by a gentleman who holds the position of county analyst in my neighbourhood. He reported to the effect that there was not a trace of apple juice in it, but that a certain flavour of fruit given to it was produced by a drug which I am informed has a very deleterious effect on the heart. I notice that people drop off very often from failure of the heart's action, and I am inclined to think it is because of the adulterated things they drink. I have another label marked "Puris Champagne Cider, Protected by Registration ; Highest Awards, London, Newcastle, 1887." The analyst also examined that champagne cider and reported that it had never seen an apple and that it was flavoured with acid, sugar, and honey. It is quite clear that a great many people are injured by this system of adulteration. The consumers themselves are injured in their health, whereas if they drank the genuine article it would benefit them. They also get an extremely erroneous idea as to what good cider and perry ought to be, and if one gave them a glass of the genuine article they would declare it was not cider at all. That is injurious to the producer and gives a false impression of what cider really is. For these reasons I beg to support the new clause, and to express the hope that the Government will look with increasing interest on this great and growing industry. In the South-Western and Midland Counties and also in Kent and Norfolk it is becoming a great industry. It is, so far as I know, the only agricultural interest now left in this country which is capable of indefinite expansion, and I hope it will be protected in a legitimate way.

***MR. LONG:** We are all anxious that every reasonable facility should be given for the manufacture and sale of cider and perry. I beg to point out to the hon.

Member for South Somerset and the hon. Member for Hereford that they hardly realise the full extent to which the clause asked the House to go:

"It shall be unlawful to sell, or import for sale, any liquid under the name of cider or perry, unless the same be made from the juice of pears and apples only."

The existing law in regard to adulteration is sufficient, I am advised, to prevent anyone selling cider or perry as such if it were only made from sugar and water and chemical compounds. We have certainly not sufficient knowledge as to the conditions governing the manufacture of these beverages to justify us in adopting a clause of this kind. I would remind the House that the Select Committee which inquired into the operation of the Adulteration Acts for four years did not embrace this subject within the scope of their inquiry. We have no definite information on the point, and we heard nothing of it until this proposed clause appeared on the Paper. In these circumstances, I hope my hon. friends will be satisfied with having raised the subject.

Question put, and negatived.

*MR. CHANNING: The clause I have put on the Paper raises, not the question of fraud, but a question of great importance, the question of public health. It is notorious to all who have gone into this subject that the use of antiseptics and preservatives, in order to enable food to be kept for a time, much longer than its nature permits, has grown to enormous proportions within the last few years. The ordinary processes of preservation by heat and by cold, which are perfectly innocuous and safe, are practically being neglected in a great many cases, and drugs are being used instead. I am bound to bring this subject before the Committee, because of the absence of any adequate restrictions on the use of drugs in preserving food. Food is placed daily on our tables full of preservatives. Our milk and cream and butter is full of boracic acid, our bacon is cured in it; our jam is full of salicylic acid, while fish are also now soaked with preservatives. And, further, in this way we may be dosed ten or a hundred-fold beyond the amount which science would say was safe for human con-

Mr. Long.

sumption. The use of preservatives is being regulated entirely in the interests of those who manufacture or dispose of these food products, not in any sense in a scientific manner. This question has been repeatedly brought before the attention of the public through great scientific gatherings. A very important inquiry was undertaken by the *Lancet* in 1897. The special Sanitary Commission on this question initiated by the *Lancet* not only demonstrated the extensive use of boracic acid and salicylic acid, formalin, and other antiseptics, but also elicited most important opinions from the leading medical experts of the day. And the opinion of the medical authorities is uniformly in favour of some such clause as I propose. Sir Henry Thompson expressed the strongest objection to the dietetic use of any drugs whatsoever. Dr. Allen said that whatever antiseptic may be used, if it is strong enough to preserve by checking various processes of decomposition brought about by bacteria, would also be strong enough to check the digestive processes which were helped by beneficial organisms. Dr. Sims-Woodhead, another great authority, spoke very strongly as to the danger of the use of antiseptics, especially as regards the digestibility of food, and he thought that until the scientific aspect of the restriction of the use of preservatives in food products had been thoroughly worked out, "it should certainly be made illegal to use them." At the Congress of Sanitary Science and Preventive Medicine held in Birmingham, in 1898, the President, Dr. Alfred Hill, in an exhaustive address on this subject, said that by the manner in which milk and cream and many other articles of food are being doctored in this way, consumers are being subjected to experiments on their constitutions by those who have no knowledge of the matter whatever, and that these experiments involve very serious risks. The purveyors of food have the most indefinite notions of what is required. One man will add 18 grains of boric acid to a pound of butter, the next man will add 80 grains. Another danger is that antiseptics are not only used by the first producers and by importers, but also by retailers. One case was given of very serious results happening to a family from eating blancmange which had been first adulterated by the manufacturer, and then another dose added by the servants in the house.

"From this point of view," says Dr. Hill, "I can only come to the conclusion that the use of chemical preservatives ought to be prohibited altogether." One gentleman who made inquiry for the Royal Agricultural Society illustrated the absurdity of allowing the free use of these antiseptics by saying that one part of boracic acid added to 3,200 parts of milk or cream was quite sufficient to preserve the milk or cream, but that a solution of boracic acid amounting to one ounce in two gallons is actually in frequent use, while to hide the bitter taste of the antiseptic glycerine or gelatine is added. In some of the American States, in France, in Denmark, Belgium, and in Germany it has been decided to absolutely prohibit the use of preservatives altogether, because of the administrative difficulty of deciding by law or regulation the proportion of these preservatives which might be made use of in food. In France they have recently prohibited the importation of American bacon which is largely doctored by boracic acid. I have no doubt the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill will reply to me that he has appointed a Committee to deal with this question. Well, if he does, I will put to him the same inquiry in regard to that Committee which I put, too late, in regard to the colouring of margarine. I would like to know whether we may look to the Committee to determine whether preservatives should be used at all, or merely to lay down what is a safe proportion of these drugs and preservatives which may be allowed in food, and whether the Government will be prepared to give effect to their recommendations by legislation or by Order in Council during the ensuing year. I venture to say that the more this question is studied of the introduction into the human system of these drugs in small quantities hour by hour, and day by day, the more it will be seen how important it is that some such proposal as I have made should be adopted.

New clause—

"It shall be unlawful to sell or import for sale any margarine, butter, milk, cream, or bacon with which boracic acid, salicylic acid, formalin, bisulphite of lime, or other preservative, excepting salt, has been mixed."—(Mr. Channing.)

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed,
"That the clause be read a second time."

*MR. LONG : There can be no doubt that the question raised by the proposed new clause is one of the very greatest importance in this sense—that the use of these preservatives can very easily be abused, and the results of that abuse might be most injurious to human health. But, unfortunately, we have not had, up to the present, knowledge as to the effect of the use of these preservatives which would enable us, if necessary, to put the existing law into force. The hon. Gentleman has asked me what is the object of the Committee which my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board recently appointed. The object is to examine precisely those questions to which the hon. Gentleman has referred, namely the use of these preservatives and colouring matters, and whether that use to any excessive extent becomes injurious to health, and whether their use to a limited extent is not necessarily injurious to health. We hope that that inquiry, which has already commenced, will result in getting some definite information with regard to this matter. If we are able to lay down rules for the guidance of the health officers of the country there will be no need for issuing an Order in Council or for fresh legislation. The existing law would be sufficient. If the preservatives are not injurious to health, then I do not think the House would agree for one instant to prohibit their use for a proper purpose.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) : What is the character of the Committee ?

MR. LONG : The Committee is composed of scientific experts, and the names have already appeared in *The Times*.

MR. LOUGH : Not in the other papers ?

*MR. LONG : I cannot say. No doubt they have appeared in the other papers, but as it happens *The Times* is the only paper in which I have seen them, and therefore I mentioned it.

MR. LOUGH : I only wanted to know for my own information.

*MR. LONG: The Chairman is the right hon. Baronet the Member for Wigtonshire, and there are two medical officers of the Local Government Board, including Professor Thorpe, if I remember rightly. I think the hon. Gentleman will admit that the Committee is one to whose deliberations and conclusions the greatest possible weight will be attached; and the reference is one which will bring into the inquiry all those difficulties to which the hon. Member has referred in his speech. I gathered from the remarks he made that all he wanted was to raise a discussion and to elicit further information as to the appointment of this Committee, and the work it is intended to do, rather than to ask the House to vote on his Amendment. I think it would be extremely improper to include in an Act of Parliament a prohibition of this kind, which is unnecessary, if these articles are injurious to health, and which ought not to be put on the Statute Book, if these articles are harmless. If the Report of the Committee shows that these preservatives ought not to be used, and cannot be used without injury to health, then the law of the land is already amply sufficient.

MR. STRACHEY: Is the right hon. Gentleman going to place himself in the hands of these experts?

*MR. LONG: The carrying out of the Act of Parliament does not rest with me or with any Minister of the Crown; it rests with the local authority.

MR. STRACHEY: Quite so; that is the point. We are told that the object of this Bill is that the right hon. Gentleman is to have a roving commission in order to see that the local authorities are doing their duty. That being the case, is the right hon. Gentleman going to pledge himself to the views of this Committee? Is he satisfied that fifty or sixty grains of boracic acid in a gallon of milk is safe? No doctor would convince me that that is a desirable or right thing. Now, boracic acid is used as a medicine in certain diseases, and if a man takes butter, milk, margarine, fish, or any kind of food which has been preserved with boracic acid, he is not only taking a much larger quantity than fifty or sixty grains of boracic acid a day, but he gets saturated with it. The consequence is,

that the boracic acid medically prescribed would have no effect upon him, like a man who is saturated with alcohol. The right hon. Gentleman says that this Amendment was only meant to raise a discussion. Is he ready to say a little later on that he will accept the Amendment of my hon. friend the Member for Caithness, which provides that every man should know exactly what he is buying and that the amount of preservative used per pound or per gallon should be stated? The right hon. Gentleman refused to accept the Amendment upstairs; is he ready to accept it now?

SIR WALTER FOSTER: This is an exceeding discouraging discussion, as it suggests, immediately before the dinner hour, that the food we are about to partake of may be overdosed with these preservatives. Seriously, I do not think that we can quite follow the example of other countries in this matter, as England is a much larger importer of food than these are, and some of the foods must necessarily be preserved in order to reach this country. I quite agree with my hon. friend the Member for East Northamptonshire as to the importance of this question, and I also agree with the spirit in which he raised it. We have on the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the subject a Member of this House, in whose general ability we have great confidence. We have also the most distinguished chemist of the time, and one of the leading officials of the Local Government Board, and a medical man to assist him. We have therefore, all the elements necessary for arriving at a sound conclusion, and when that conclusion is arrived at, I have no doubt the operation of the ordinary law will restrict the use of these preservatives. No one can speak dogmatically on the use of these preservatives, for it is a question which science has not yet solved. Therefore, I think that to persevere with this new clause at the present time is unnecessary, in view of the statement of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill.

MR. KEARLEY: The hon. Member for South Somerset has pointed out to us all the horrors which may arise from the excessive use of these preservatives, and he asked the right hon. Gentleman if he proposes to accept the verdict of the Committee before the Committee has hardly

met. A more extraordinary question to a Minister I have never heard, and I think my hon. friend's zeal outruns his discretion. I would point out that my hon. friend's demand is unreasonable, especially as the mover of the Amendment is satisfied with the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): The proposed clause would prohibit the use of every preservative except salt. Surely it is not proposed to prohibit ice. I believe it would be an enormous mistake to enter into these terrifying details, and I think it would be best to withdraw the clause and leave the country under the impulse of the horror created by this Debate, which I think will send a thrill throughout the country to-morrow morning. As it is, I am afraid to go to dinner.

DR. CLARK: I hope my hon. friend will accept the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman to wait until we see the Report of the Committee. Then, if the Committee report on the lines that my hon. friend thinks, no change will be required in the present law. The only difficulty at the present time is that there is a difference of opinion as to whether boracic acid is more harmful than salt. A large number of medical men will tell you that they are equally harmful and equally harmless, but I take it this Committee will try and gather a concensus of opinion on the subject, and after it has been thoroughly thrashed out in Committee, we shall have one medical man giving his opinion to the magistrates that a certain preservative is injurious, and another medical man saying that he believes it is perfectly innocuous.

MR. CHANNING: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he proposes, under Clause 4 of this Bill, to make regulations dealing with the quantity of preservatives that may be added, before or after this Committee has reported?

*MR. LONG: I could not make any regulation as to the quantity of preservatives until we have the Report of the Committee before us.

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'Kingdom,' to insert the words 'for consumption therein.'"
—(Mr. Lough.)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and negatived.

MR. LOUGH moved to insert at the beginning of Clause 1 the words "butter and cheese." The object of the Amendment was to widen the scope of the Bill. A great deal of bad butter was imported into this country, and bad cheese other than margarine, and he submitted that equal information should be given with regard to this trade.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, before the word 'margarine,' to insert the words 'butter and cheese.'"—(Mr. Lough.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I hope the hon. Member will not press the Amendment to a Division. I cannot understand the introduction of good butter and cheese into the list of questionable articles as to which the clause provides precautions.

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL said he thought this Amendment would have a most serious effect, and he was much surprised that the hon. Member for West Islington should recommend it. If Danish butter were marked it would be impossible to sell English butter. People bought Danish butter because they preferred it to any other butter, and until the English farmers made English butter equal to Danish the large importation of Danish would continue. To place butter in the same category as margarine would be a very great mistake, and he was very glad, therefore, that the Government refused to accept the Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. COLVILLE moved the omission of "margarine cheese" from the articles as to which the restriction was provided. He pointed out that skimmed milk cheese and other kinds of cheese were not

included, and therefore submitted that the words "margarine cheese" should be left out.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, to leave out the words or margarine cheese." —(*Mr. Colville.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or margarine cheese' stand part of the Bill."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I hope this Amendment will be withdrawn. I can see no reason for leaving the importation of this article unrestricted.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton) expressed the hope that the hon. Member would not withdraw his Amendment. This was another example of the vicious system of legislation which

selected a few articles and proceeded to deal with them in a fragmentary and inefficient manner. The Solicitor-General had said that there was no reason for this Amendment. If he dealt with milk products, why did he not take the matter all round? They were advancing one step deeper into the quagmire into which they had drifted when the House passed the Margarine Act.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS said he hoped the Amendment would not be pressed. He could not understand how, in the interests of legislation for preventing fraud by margarine-filled cheese, the Amendment could be supported.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 157; Noes, 19. (Division List, No. 278.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)	Denny, Colonel	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Allan, William (Gateshead)	Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Keswick, William
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-	Kilbride, Denis
Arrol, Sir William	Donelan, Captain A.	Kimber, Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Donkin, Richard Sim	Lafone, Alfred
Baird, John George Alexander	Doogan, P. C.	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Balfour, Rt Hon A J (Manch'r)	Doughty, George	Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Drucker, A.	Lloyd, George, David
Bartley, George C. T.	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverp'l)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Evershed, Sydney	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin	Fardell, Sir T. George	Lowe, Francis William
Beach, Rt Hon Sir M H (Bristol)	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.	Lowles, John
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Fenwick, Charles	Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Benrose, Sir Henry Howe	Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)	Macaleese, Daniel
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Billson, Alfred	Fisher, William Hayes	MacIver David (Liverpool)
Bousfield, William Robert	FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-	MacLure, Sir John William
Broadhurst, Henry	Flower, Ernest	M'Dermott, Patrick
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)	M'Killop, James
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)	Maddison, Fred.
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James	Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)	Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
Burns, John	Fry, Lewis	More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Burt, Thomas	Garfit, William	Morrell, George Herbert
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Morrison, Walter
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Gilliat, John Saunders	Morton, Arthur H.A (Deptford)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.	Goldsworth, Major-General	Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Charrington, Spencer	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	O'Malley, William
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)	Parkes, Ebenezer
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Gull, Sir Cameron	Pender, Sir James
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.	Penn, John
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Hare, Thomas Leigh	Pickard, Benjamin.
Condon, Thomas Joseph	Helder, Augustus	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Henderson, Alexander	Power, Patrick Joseph
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd	Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)	Purvis, Robert
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W	Howard, Joseph	Randell, David
Craiborne, Viscount	Hudson, George Bickersteth	Rankin, Sir James
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Richards, Henry Charles
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)	Jenkins, Sir John Jones	Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Cha. Thomeon
Curzon, Viscount	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Davis, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.)	Rutherford, John

Mr. Colville.

Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalybr.)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Thorburn, Walter

Thornton, Percy M.
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)

Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Caldwell, James
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Crilly, Daniel
 Duckworth, James
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond

Lough, Thomas
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Price, Robert John
 Provost, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)

Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Colville and Sir Charles Cameron

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid.): I rise to move, as an Amendment to Clause 1, page 1, line 10, to leave out the words "or impoverished." Obviously these words are not applicable to butter; there is no such thing known to law as impoverished butter.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to call your attention, Sir, to the facts that the Minister in charge of the Bill is not in the House, and there are not forty Members present.

***MR. SPEAKER:** I recently ascertained that there were forty Members in the House.

MR. CALDWELL: It is impossible for there to be impoverished butter. There might be impoverished milk, but you cannot impoverish butter without destroying its character. If you make the butter from inferior milk you may have a less quantity of butter, but the constituents will be the same. It is the quantity, not the quality, that will be affected. Observe how the words are brought in here. They are brought in in a section which obviously applies to imported articles. You do not find the word "impoverished" in the Sale of Food and Drugs Act dealing with articles manufactured in this country. "Adulteration" is referred to in Sub-section 7, and is held to apply to any article if it has been "mixed with any other substance or if any part of it has been extracted so as injuriously to affect its quality, substance, or mixture." "Impoverished butter" could not mean anything

added; at any rate, that would be adulterated butter, while if you take out any substance it is butter no longer. It is the same as if you take hydrogen or oxygen out of water. These words are not needed at all; the word "adulterated" is quite sufficient. It is always an injudicious thing in Acts of Parliament to begin a new definition of an offence. We know what "adulteration" means, and it can be made to apply to every offence that is covered here.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out the words 'or impoverished.'"—(Mr. Caldwell.)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or impoverished' stand part of the Bill."

***MR. T. W. RUSSELL:** If the hon. Gentleman had been a member of the Grand Committee he would have discovered what was news to many of us, but a fact, nevertheless, that there were methods of treating butter which could only be met by the term "impoverished." The word "adulteration" is not sufficient—

MR. CALDWELL: Why not—as in Sub-section 7?

***MR. T. W. RUSSELL:** The word "adulteration" is not sufficient. It is one thing to add one article to another and so adulterate, but it is an even worse offence to abstract from an article one of its valuable qualities, and sell the article as if

nothing had been extracted from it. The words are absolutely essential, and I hope the House will not waste time in discussing the question.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON : I served on the Grand Committee as constantly as any man here, and I confess it is absolutely impossible for me to conceive what impoverished butter is. The hon. Member has said there were methods described of treating butter by abstracting valuable qualities from it. I never heard anything of a method by which a valuable quality of the butter was extracted, but we did have evidence as to a method by which the acid constituting the rancidity was washed out and the butter purified. That certainly was not impoverishment. This is a very important clause, and will probably give rise to litigation as to what its meaning is. It is a clause under which a cargo of butter might be stopped. Adulterated butter is a very proper thing to stop; impoverished butter might be if we knew what it was, and I confess I do not know what it is. The words appear to me to be absolutely unintelligible, and I cannot conceive why the right hon. Gentleman refuses to consider an Amendment so reasonable as that of my hon. friend.

MR. KEARLEY : The most important question to consider in connection with

this Amendment is whether we are to raise all these small issues. If so, we shall not get the Bill through at all. It is an unquestionable fact that butter can be impoverished; we had evidence of it before the Committee, and the Government are perfectly right in safeguarding themselves against this new form of adulteration by introducing the word "impoverished." Only the other day I received a circular of some company that is going to deal with butter which has lost some of its essentials. Why should not that be dealt with just as much as adulteration? This word "impoverish" will be most fitting for dealing with that system. I hope the Government will not delete the words, and that my hon. friend will not persist in raising small matters like this, because I am sure we all desire the Bill, which is a very useful one, to pass.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil) : We have been told that this matter was thoroughly discussed in Committee. But now that the Bill has come back to this House we are entitled to consider the whole matter, and I think before we proceed we ought to have some answer as to the meaning of the word "impoverish."

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 162 ; Noes, 24. (Division List, No. 279.)

AYES.

Abraham, W. (Cork, N.E.)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Baird, John George Alexander
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Benrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Billson, Alfred
Bousfield, William Robert
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbysh.)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Charrington, Spencer
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis

Mr. T. W. Russell.

Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edward B.
Crilly, Daniel
Cross, Alexander
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Drucker, A.
Duckworth, James
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailywyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles

Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fry, Lewis
Garfit, William
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. (St. George's)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones

Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kenyon-Saney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Macaulee, Daniel
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 MacIure, Sir John William
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 McDermott, Patrick
 McKillop, James
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)

Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Pender, Sir James
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Purvis, Robert
 Randell, David
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, T. Harrap (Stalyb.
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)

Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stock, James Henry
 Strauss, Arthur
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Thorburn, Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Williams, Colonel, R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joe. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Young, Commander (Berks., E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Burt, Thomas
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Langley, Batty
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lough, Thomas

Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Pickering, Edward Hare
 Price, Robert John
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)

Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
 Ure, Alexander
 Weir, James Galloway
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Caldwell and Sir
 Charles Cameron.

DR. CLARK: In regard to the question of skinned milk, the Camberwell Vestry have taken the matter up, and they have memorialised the Local Government Board in regard to this matter. This Vestry has sent out information to nearly all the members of the local boards, town councils, district councils, and the principal corporations of England. They point out that when the word "separated" is used in connection with condensed milk, it is generally understood that the water has been taken away from the milk, but it is not the taking away of the water that does the harm. Separated milk is the very worst form of milk. Skimmed milk is not bad at all, because you cannot take away all the cream, but when the milk passes through a hydraulic separator you can remove all the cream. By this process you take away all the cream, and then the milk is condensed without any cream at all. The result is that the children who are fed upon it suffer terribly from indigestion. I have spoken to some of the largest manufacturers, including the Swiss Milk Company, and they inform me that they have been

compelled to bring in this separated or impoverished milk in order to compete with the other brands in the market. The "Milkmaid" brand contains the highest percentage of cream. As a rule, there is about 3 per cent. of cream in condensed milk, but there ought to be about 10 per cent. When this is called separated milk poor people are confused, for they imagine that it is the milk separated from the water. I think you ought to convey the meaning that it is impoverished milk, and let the purchaser know that the milk has been impoverished by subtracting the cream.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out from the word 'words,' to the word 'are,' in line 18, and insert the words 'skinned or impoverished milk.'" —(Dr. Clark.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

*MR. LONG: I think we all want to achieve the same object which the hon. Member desires—namely, that some limitations should be placed upon the sale:

of this impoverished milk, but everything really turns upon what words will be best to convey the meaning of the Act of Parliament. The hon. Gentleman proposes to omit the words "separated milk or skinned milk," and insert the words "skinned or impoverished milk." I entirely agree with what he has said as to the character of separated milk. It is very inferior to skinned milk, and I believe as an article of food separated milk is absolutely worthless, and certainly as an exclusive diet for young children it ought not, under any circumstances, to be used. So perfect has become the practice of certain people in the country in this respect, that I believe they have actually succeeded in persuading their customers that separated milk, instead of being the very lowest class, is a better article than whole or pure milk, because it has gone through some particular process which makes it better. If we could meet these difficulties by the words which have been moved by the hon. Gentleman I would accept them, but I am afraid that by drawing a distinction between skinned and other milk and using the term "impoverished milk," no tradesman would use the word "impoverished" if he could find any other name. Does the hon. Member propose that all separated milk shall be called impoverished milk?

DR. CLARK : I suggest that all condensed milk from which the cream has been removed shall be called impoverished milk.

*MR. LONG : The hon. Member does not draw any distinction between skinned and impoverished milk. I believe the whole House desires that this Bill shall secure in the future that articles shall be sold for what they are as genuine articles, and that anybody who seeks to commit a fraud shall have his attempts frustrated as speedily as possible.

DR. CLARK : My hon. friend the Member for Ilkeston has a better suggestion to make, and I will withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER : I move this Amendment in order to get rid of the difficulty in which we are now placed.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, after the words 'skinned
Mr. Long.'

'milk,' to insert the words 'and not fit food for infants.'"—(Sir Walter Foster.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BARTLEY : Does the word "infants" mean people under twenty-one years of age?

SIR R. B. FINLAY : I do not know from this Amendment at what age the line will be drawn for infants. If you say it is not fit food for infants you imply that it is fit for adults.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER : But it cannot hurt adults.

SIR R. B. FINLAY : If it cannot hurt an adult I do not think it would do him or her any good. I suggest that the Amendment is not a desirable one because parents and guardians will very soon get to know that either separated or skinned milk is not fit food for infants. I therefore suggest that it is not desirable that this addition should be made.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : I am sorry that the hon. Member who moved the previous Amendment withdrew it, because I hardly think we shall get the present proposal inserted in the Bill. Separated milk is not fit food for either infants, grown-up children, or adults. It is not fit food even for calves or pigs, and in Ireland young stock as well as children are suffering from the consumption of this abominable separated milk which is sent out from the creameries. Undoubtedly the term "separated milk" is a most unfortunate term, because it does not grammatically and properly describe the process to which the milk has been subjected.

Even the Minister in charge of the Bill admits that people have defrauded their customers by making them believe that separated milk is something particularly good. I do not see why we should be a party to perpetuating an expression which does not properly describe the process. I regret that we are not taking this opportunity of christening this milk by a name which indicates its real character. Separated milk ought not to be sold for human food, and although it may be too much to require an absolute prohibition of its sale, I am not at all sure that it would not be a wise thing to prohibit the sale of it for infants. I think we ought to require that this milk should be marked by some name which will convey to uninstructed people the fact that the

milk has been very seriously impoverished.

*MR. LONG: I think all of us are agreed as to what we want, and I believe the majority of this House are anxious that this Bill should be passed with as little delay as possible. I will, therefore, throw out this suggestion. As the House knows, it is a very dangerous thing to accept or propose words which will have the result of altering the phraseology of a clause without very careful consideration and consultation, and this it is impossible to have under the pressure of a Parliamentary Debate. I am extremely anxious that we should secure that this article shall be sold for what it is, and that anything that can be done by legislative interference shall be done to prevent this particular article being used as food for infants. If the House will accept this assurance, I will promise to consider whether the Government can propose some words to meet the difficulty which I hope to be able to insert in another place.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I suggest that the right hon. Gentleman should bring his proposal before this House instead of risking its insertion in another place.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. LONG: I beg to move this Amendment in consequence of an undertaking which I gave to the Standing Committee. It was there suggested that certain specified articles should be inserted in the clause, and I undertook to introduce words which would extend the clause without incurring the danger of using specific words. I understand that the hon. Baronet opposite wishes to omit the words with reference to the Order in Council, but I think it is desirable that before any additional articles are included application should be made for the issue of an Order in Council, one advantage being that the Department mainly concerned would to a certain extent be checked by the Privy Council.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'type,' to insert the words 'or (d) Any adulterated or impoverished article of food to which Her Majesty may by Order in Council direct that this section shall be applied, unless the same be imported in packages or receptacles conspicuously marked with a name or description indicating that the article has been so treated.'"
(*Mr. Long.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I have an Amendment to this clause. The right hon. Gentleman has not correctly described what occurred in Committee. I moved an Amendment to the effect that there should be added to this list, for inspection at the port of entry, any article adulterated under the Food and Drugs Act. That would extend to all articles an excellent method of preventing adulteration. But on a Division it was negatived by a small majority. The right hon. Gentleman did not give way then, but on the discussion on the next clause we endeavoured to accomplish the same object by the inclusion of the Local Government Board as one of the authorities who would see that the Act was satisfactorily carried out. The right hon. Gentleman gave way on that point, and undertook to consider it. It certainly did not carry out the object of my first Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman has told us that the advantage of the course he proposes will be that it will place some check on the Board of Agriculture when it proposes to prohibit the importation of any article in consequence of adulteration. But the disadvantage is, that when it is discovered that a consignment of some adulterated article is coming over, it will be necessary to obtain an Order in Council before it can be interfered with, and in the meantime the country may be inundated with it. Give the Customs power to stop any consignment without any further formality. That would have the advantage of making a general rule applicable throughout, would avoid a system of isolated treatment, and would relieve the Department of the necessity of going through a tedious formality to obtain an Order in Council. If it were known that a cargo of impoverished or adulterated food were about to be landed, let the Board of Customs have the power to stop it, on the initiative, of course, of the Board of Agriculture or the Local Government Board. That would enable the Customs to act at once. I beg to move, Sir.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'to which Her Majesty may by Order in Council direct that this section shall be applied.'"
—(*Sir Charles Cameron.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

*MR. LONG: I sincerely hope the House will not adopt the suggestion of the hon. Baronet. It would make the clause absolutely inoperative. The hon. Baronet says he desires that impoverished and adulterated articles should be stopped at once, but, in moving such an Amendment, I doubt very much whether it can be reconciled with his expressed desire to see his Bill made efficient and effective.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: On a point of Order: Is the right hon. Gentleman justified in imputing to me a want of desire that the Bill should be efficient and effective?

*MR. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman is not out of Order in imputing to the hon. Member a desire to defeat the Bill.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: The right hon. Gentleman did not refer to my defeating the Bill.

*MR LONG: If I have said anything to cause the hon. Baronet any personal pain, I withdraw it without the smallest reservation, and apologise for it. I was, however, under the impression that the hon. Baronet described this Bill as a mischievous Bill, and that he did not desire to see it on the Statute Book, but I am unwilling to cause him the smallest personal pain in the matter. He argues that if his Amendment is accepted the Customs will be able to act at once. The Customs at present act under the Department concerned, and nothing could be more prompt than the procedure we suggest. In the first instance, we would have a Government Department to which an individual can go whenever he believes that interference is necessary. The matter would then be brought to the attention of the Department, and the Department would move the Treasury, who would communicate with the Board of Customs. That is the procedure in force at present, and it has been found thoroughly efficient with regard to the importation of butter. There is no justification whatever for the Amendment, and instead of making the Act more efficient it would delay its operation, because it would throw on the Board of Customs duties they have never performed.

MR. KEARLEY: I think that the original Amendment is very desirable,

because it gives power to intercept goods other than agricultural products. Now that the scope of the Bill is so enlarged, an Amendment to Sub-section 7 of this clause will be required. The definition of adulteration set out there is perfectly fair to the particular products with which you are now contemplating to deal. The new definition would prohibit absolutely the importation of certain commodities that have been added to for the purpose of preparing them as articles of commerce. For instance, some slight addition is made to Dutch cocoa, in order to improve its digestive qualities.

*MR. SPEAKER: The Amendment of the hon. Member comes on at a later stage.

MR. KEARLEY: I only wished to ask the Government whether they had overlooked the fact that an Amendment will be necessary to Sub-section 7.

MR. BRYCE: The most conclusive reason against the Amendment of my hon. friend is that it would very considerably extend the right of the Executive Government to prohibit the importation of articles. The extension of the power of the Executive Government is a very serious matter, and should be carried out only after solemn deliberation. There is also another reason against the Amendment. Every year a volume is issued containing all the statutory rules and orders, and everything that has been done by a Department, under the authority of the Sovereign in Council. That volume can be consulted, and is a great convenience and safeguard. The Amendment of my hon. friend would prevent these orders appearing in that volume, which would be a public inconvenience.

MR. LOUGH: I would also ask my hon. friend whether he cannot withdraw his Amendment. The proposal of the right hon. Gentleman has met with a great deal of favour. Everything that tends to extend the Bill will probably increase the hostility with which it is viewed. The advantage of these Orders in Council will be that at any rate traders will know what articles are excluded. Otherwise some articles might suddenly be added to the list, and no trader would know anything about it.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Words inserted.

SIR JOHN LENG: I have put down the next Amendment in order to get an assurance that this clause will not apply to shipowners, railway companies, and common carriers.

Amendment proposed :

"In page 1, line 26, after 'article' to insert 'except shipowner, railway company, or common carrier.'"—(Sir John Leng.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: Certainly not. The clause only applies to an agent or broker.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LOUGH: I am proposing this Amendment in order that we may have an explanation. It seems to me that the machinery adopted is very clumsy. You are bringing in the Board of Customs, the Treasury, and the Board of Agriculture, and you will, as a result, have the business done badly. I think the responsibility ought to rest on one Department. Why cannot the Board of Customs act independently, and not wait for the directions of the Treasury, given after consultation with the Board of Agriculture?

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out the words from the word 'shall' to the word 'take,' in line 3."—(Mr. Lough.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'Board,' in line 2, stand part of the Bill."

*MR. LONG: The appearance of this sub-section deserves somewhat the description which has been given it by the hon. Member. But its appearance is very much worse than its practical effect. It is exactly the procedure in force at the present time. As a matter of fact the three Departments discharge different duties. If the Board of Agriculture believes that these powers can be exercised in the interests of the community, it must obtain the assent of the Treasury, without which no addition can be made to the expenditure incurred by the Department, and then there is the Board of Customs to carry out the directions of the Department. The procedure appears more prolonged than it really is. As a matter of fact, if the Department is satisfied that action is necessary, that action can be taken within forty-eight hours or less.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER: I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name. I wish to put in the Local Government Board instead of the Board of Agriculture. I do so because in all these matters I think the Local Government Board should be the acting authority in the future as in the past, and the alteration just made by the right hon. Gentleman giving power to the Privy Council to introduce other articles of food, makes it more important that the Local Government Board should be substituted. That Board has had the administration of the Adulteration Acts for twenty-three years and has done good work in administering them under great difficulties. If this Bill passes—and I am doing my best to facilitate it—the Local Government Board will for the first time, under Clause 3, practically have power to compel the local authorities to act under its control as far as prosecutions are concerned. That power did not exist before. The fault we have had with the administration of the Food and Drugs Act in the past was that it was a permissive Act, but in the future it will be the duty of the local authority to appoint an analyst and to take samples. This is the best clause in the Bill. I think that as regards inspection at the port of entry the Local Government Board would be a better authority than the Board of Agriculture, as these questions are difficult to separate from the public health of the country. Adulterated food coming through a port of entry has to be followed by the local authority under the control, more or less, of the Local Government Board. I should further like that the local authority should look to one central authority as in the past. The Local Government Board has also a scientific staff, not, of course, in connection with the Food and Drugs Act, but still worthy of being consulted. In a word, the Board of Agriculture was not constituted originally for the purposes contemplated in this Bill. It was originally intended to take over certain duties of the Land Commissioners and to look after diseases of animals and the muzzling of dogs, which latter duty is carried out with much effect in the stamping out of rabies. I prefer the Local Government Board for the reason that I prefer being in the hands of the doctors connected with it than in the hands of the vets. con-

nected with the Board of Agriculture. The Local Government Board, moreover, is not connected with any producing industry, whereas the Board of Agriculture is. I believe that the Bill would obtain much more confidence in the country generally if we inserted throughout "Local Government Board" instead of "Board of Agriculture," and we should in the end obtain a much more satisfactory and efficient administration. If we keep in the Board of Agriculture we shall have a dual control, and I do not want a dual control in the administration of these Acts. I do not want them to be worked in the interest of any producing class, but in the interest of the community as a whole, and it is for that purpose that I move this Amendment. I have no doubt that the right hon. Gentleman opposite will allege that the Local Government Board has already more work than it can do satisfactorily. My answer to that is very simple—make it strong enough to continue to discharge the duties it has had charge of for the past twenty-three years.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 2, after the second word 'the,' to insert the words 'Local Government.'"—(Sir Walter Foster.)

Question proposed, "That the words 'Local Government' be there inserted."

*MR. LONG : I do not think it is necessary to enter into any elaborate defence of my Department, or to make any comparison between the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture. I am bound to say I listened with some astonishment to the statement of the hon. Gentleman that the Local Government Board had done its work so well for twenty-three years that it ought to be allowed to continue, for the hon. Gentleman himself, when he was President of the Local Government Board, called upon the Board of Agriculture to do this work. The hon. Gentleman tells us that the country would have more confidence in the Local Government Board. All I can say is that the Board of Agriculture has done this work on the suggestion of an Irish Member, and under the direction of the right hon. the Member for West Monmouth. The country, so far as I know, has never expressed any opinion for or against either of the Boards in regard to the work of administration. I

Sir Walter Foster.

am sure the work could not be better done than it has been by the Board of Agriculture. The result is that the introduction of adulterated imported butter, which was considerable when the hon. Gentleman was at the Local Government Board, is at the present time, under the direction of the Board of Agriculture, reduced to nil. In fact, the great majority of the articles to which this clause applies belong to the administration of my Department. We have dealt with them on the initiation of my predecessor, and most successfully. We are only regularising the work initiated in 1893. When my hon. friend said that he prefers the doctors of the Local Government Board to the vet's of the Board of Agriculture, he made a remark not worthy of himself. Obviously the latter have nothing to do with the control of the imports of food. I hope that the House will be content to leave in the hands of the Board of Agriculture, in a regularised form, the work they have hitherto discharged.

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL : I think there is a great deal in what the hon. Gentleman says, and I will support him if he goes to a Division. There is a very important change in this Bill so far as administration goes. The local authorities in the country have hitherto looked to the Local Government Board for the administration of the Foods and Drugs Act of 1875, and subsequent Acts. But if this Bill passes they will not know to which Board they will have to apply. If the right hon. Gentleman insists that this 1st Section shall be under the control of the Board of Agriculture, he might, at any rate, put the administration of the other parts of the Bill in the country under the control of the Local Government Board. If the right hon. Gentleman is prepared to do that, it would be a fair compromise. Under an important provision of this measure, the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture will have the right to appoint inspectors; but I hold that when the local authorities will not do their duty, it should be left to one Department of the State, and not to two, to carry out the work.

MR. STRACHEY : I am not convinced by the argument of my hon. friend the late Secretary of the Local Government Board. I cannot help thinking that he-

goes on the shoemaker's principle that there is nothing like leather. He says that the administration of the Local Government Board would command most public confidence. I can tell him that is not so. We who live in the country districts are tired of the way in which the Local Government Board carry out the present Acts, and we should be very glad to see this Act put under the Board of Agriculture. I certainly shall vote with the Government on this matter.

MR. BRYCE: I have no favour or affection in regard to one of these Boards or the other. But there are two reasons why it seems to me it would be better if the administration were carried out by the Local Government Board rather than by the Board of Agriculture. The first is, that, after all, these proceedings will depend very much on what is going on in the country, and on what is discovered by the local authorities. When they discover that adulteration is going on, they will be the persons to set the powers of the Act in motion. Clearly, the local authorities will naturally communicate with the Local Government Board, for they are under the Board, and for them to go to the Board of Agriculture would be a very roundabout process. It appears to me that it would be in conformity with good principles of administration if the Local Government Board were to take the place of the Board of Agriculture in every part of the Bill. As to the second clause, the issue between the Board of Agriculture and the Local Government Board is quite different, and I do not want to prejudice it. The Local Government Board is to interfere in relation to any matter appearing to affect the consumer; but the Board of Agriculture is to come in in relation to any matter which affects the general interests of agriculture—that is to say, not to protect the consumer or trader, but to protect people who think they are subjected to severe competition; and in their interests the Board of Agriculture is to set the Customs in motion.

*Mr. LONG dissented.

MR. BRYCE: The hon. Gentleman appears to disclaim that interpretation of the words in the Bill, but I do not see that any other interpretation can be put

upon them. Now, my second reason is this. We have been told repeatedly that this Bill is grounded on the desire to prevent fraud, and nothing else. That is the justification for the Bill; it cannot be justified on the ground that it will prevent competition. The prevention of fraud is in the interest of the consumer, and by Clause 2 of the Bill the Local Government Board is made the protector of the consumer and the Board of Agriculture the protector of the interests of agriculture. It is very clear from the words used by the Government that the Board of Agriculture has no business in this matter and that the Local Government Board ought to have the sole authority.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: The right hon. Gentleman says that the local authority is the proper authority to call the attention of a Government Department to what is going on. I quite agree with that. But what we are now dealing with is the act of importing, an altogether earlier stage than that with which the local authorities have to do. I therefore submit that the first reason given by the right hon. Gentleman is a very bad one. And his second reason is not much better. It is based on the second section. He says that the Board of Agriculture under Section 2 is to look after the interests of the farmers and endeavour to repress adulteration. I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that he entirely misunderstands the second section. The Board of Agriculture has power to deal with any agricultural products, but there may be other articles which affect the interests of consumers generally and which do not affect agriculture, and accordingly provision is made that in any case where the interests of the general consumer are concerned the Local Government Board will interfere.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: Taking the analogy of Clause 2 you should have both Boards empowered to put the Customs in action. As the Bill was drafted there was no reference to the Local Government Board in Clause 2, but owing to the discussion that took place in Committee, the overwhelming opinion of the Committee was that the Local Government Board should look after the interests

of the general consumer. The absurdity of limiting the protection to the purely agricultural interest was seen, and it was agreed that the Local Government Board should be introduced. The result was to make Clause 2 the basis of a real anti-adulteration Bill. But what have we here? It was originally proposed under Clause 1 to deal with butter, milk, cream, cheese, and other milk products, and when the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture says, as an argument against the adoption of my hon. friend's Amendment, that the Local Government Board dealt only in butter in a pure state, he has butter on the brain. What we wanted was to have other forms of adulteration suppressed, and for that reason we wanted inspectors sent down by the Local Government Board in the interests of the general consumer. The logical and symmetrical way is to put this clause on all fours with Clause 2.

MR. LOUGH : There is one clear point that should be considered by the Government before this discussion closes. The argument of the right hon. Gentleman is that the Board of Agriculture has been doing this work, but the right hon. Gentleman forgets that the Amendment he has carried into the Bill includes many other matters than agricultural produce. The Agricultural Board has not hitherto been acting on statutory authority. We are now giving statutory authority, and applying it to every article of food, and therefore, are settling the matter on a

permanent basis. I trust the Government will give a more generous consideration to the Amendment, for it will tend to simplification of administration in the country if the work is done exclusively by the Local Government Board.

DR. CLARK : I am rather in the curious position to-night of having voted with the Government in every Division, but I certainly cannot support them in this case. Someone must move the Treasury in order that the Treasury may move the Customs officials. The question is, who is first to move them? Now, what Department will first know of the importation of any adulterated article? The Board of Agriculture have no method of inspiration to tell them that something adulterated is coming in. The ordinary way of finding out adulteration is when the adulterated article is being sold, and it comes to the knowledge of the Government through the Inspector of the Local Government Board. There is no other way of getting information about it. Now you are going to take away the control from the Department which has hitherto had control of it and are going to have a divided authority, and all forms of food will pass under the Board of Agriculture. I do not see any reason why this change has been made.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 76 ; Noes, 197. (Division List, No. 280.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. Henry
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Colville, John
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Evershed, Sydney
Farquharson, Dr. Robert

Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Hempill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sir U
Kinloch, Sir John George S.
Labouchere, Henry
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Leng, Sir John
Leuty, Thomas Richmond
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Crae, George
M'Ewan, William
Maddison, Fred.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William

Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John
Provost, Andrew Dryburgh
Randell, David
Rickett, J. Compton
Robson, William Snowdon
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spicer, Albert
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander

Sir Charles Cameron,

Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)

Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Jonathan Samuel and
Mr. Longh.

NOES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Garfit, William	Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Arrol, Sir William	Gedge, Sydney	Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Gilliat, John Saunders	Myers, William Henry
Baird, John George Alexander	Godson, Sir A. Frederick	Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Balcarres, Lord	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Nicholson, William Graham
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	Parkes, Ebenezer
Banbury, Frederick George	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)	Panton, James Mellor
Bartley, George C. T.	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Penn, John
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Powell, Sir Francis Sharpe
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)	Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Gull, Sir Cameron	Purvis, Robert
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Haubury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.	Rankin, Sir James
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.	Hanson, Sir Reginald	Rentoul, James Alexander
Bigwood, James	Hardy, Laurence	Richards, Henry Charles
Bond, Edward	Hare, Thomas Leigh	Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Boseawen, Arthur Griffith-	Harwood, George	Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Clas. Thomson
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Helder, Augustus	Robinson, Brooke
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Henderson, Alexander	Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Butcher, John George	Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)	Rutherford, John
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Hudson, George Bickersteth	Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Samuel, H. S. (Linnehouse)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Savory, Sir Joseph
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r.)	Jenkins, Sir John Jones	Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Charrington, Spencer	Jolliffe, Hon. H. George	Sidebottom, T. Harrop (Stalyb.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.)	Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Kearley, Hudson E.	Simeon, Sir Barrington
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Kemp, George	Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William	Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready	Keswick, William	Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Compton, Lord Alwyne	Lafone, Alfred	Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Lambert, George	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)	Lawrence, Sir Ed'Durning (Corn.)	Stock, James Henry
Cornwallia, Fiennee Stanley W.	Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)	Strachey, Edward
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	Strauss, Arthur
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge	Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)	Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Cranborne, Viscount	Leighton, Stanley	Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Ox. Uni.)
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)	Thorburn, Walter
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)	Thornton, Percy M.
Curzon, Viscount	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	Tollemache, Henry James
Dalkeith, Earl of	Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)	Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)	Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)	Valentia, Viscount
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller	Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H.
Denny, Colonel	Lorne, Marquess of	Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.	Lowe, Francis William	Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Donkin, Richard Sim	Loyd, Archie Kirkman	Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
Dorington, Sir John Edward	Lucas-Shadwell, William	Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Doughty, George	Macaleese, Dan'l	Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Macartney, W. G. Ellison	Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Drucker, A.	Maclure, Sir John William	Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	M'Arthur, Charles (Liver pool)	Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas	M'Killop, James	Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyne Edw.	Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.	Wrightson, Thomas
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Man.)	Mildmay, Francis Bingham	Wylie, Alexander
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)	Milton, Viscount	Wyndham, George
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Milward, Colonel Victor	Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Fisher, William Hayes	Moon, Edward Robert Pacy	Wyllill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-	More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)	Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Flower, Ernest	Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'ths.)	Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)	Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)	
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)	Morrell, George Herbert	
Fry, Lewis	Morris, Samuel	
Galloway, William Johnson	Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)	

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. STRACHEY moved an Amendment the object of which, he explained, was to provide that all milk, cream, or butter containing any preservative should be imported and sold as preserved, stating the amount of the preservative and the amount per gallon or pound of such preservative. The effect of the Amendment would be to let the general public know exactly what they were buying. He could not see what objection there could be to his proposal unless the Government took the line that the public should not know that they were buying sophisticated articles.

Amendment proposed :—

"In page 2, line 27, after the word 'health,' to insert the words: 'But any milk, cream, or butter containing any preservative shall be imported and sold as preserved, stating the name of the preservative and the amount per gallon or per pound of such preservative.'—*(Mr. Strachey.)*

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN: I think my hon. friend will agree that instead of the word "and" at the commencement of line 2, it would be better to substitute "or".

MR. STRACHEY: I have no objection.

Amendment amended, by leaving out, after the word "imported," the word "and," and inserting the word "or"—*(Mr. Humphreys-Owen)*—instead thereof.

Question. "That the words, 'But any milk, cream, or butter containing any preservative shall be imported or sold as preserved, stating the name of the preservative, and the amount per gallon or per pound of such preservative,' be there inserted."

*MR. LONG: I hope the hon. Gentleman will not think it necessary to divide the House upon this Amendment. The law as it stands can deal with injurious preservatives, and the Amendment will only embarrass the trade. It is because there are some doubts as to whether preservatives are harmless or not that the Government have appointed a Committee to ascertain whether the use of these preservatives is injurious. It is undesirable

to propose legislation of a troublesome character which will not have any compensating advantage, and which may seriously interfere with large businesses. If the result of the inquiry is to show that the use of preservatives or colouring matter is injurious, the question can be dealt with.

DR. CLARK: I do not think we ought to prohibit preservatives, but I think the public should know whether they are buying a pure article or a mixed article.

Question put, and negatived.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER: I desire to move an Amendment on Clause 2, which refers not only to the Local Government Board but to the Board of Agriculture. The object of this Amendment is to keep the Local Government Board in the position which it has hitherto held as the controlling authority over the various parts of the country as regards the administration of this Act. This clause does not relate simply to agricultural produce, but to articles of food and drugs generally, and it is therefore on all fours with the old powers exercised by the Local Government Board. I wish those powers to remain in the hands of the Local Government Board, and not to be in the hands of the Board of Agriculture as well. I do not think it is expedient to have two Government Departments interfering with the local authorities with regard to their administration of this Act. In my opinion, the words in question, which refer to "the general interests of the consumer" or "the general interests of agriculture in the United Kingdom," suggesting as they do motives for the action of the Board, are destructive of public confidence in an Act of Parliament. Every Act of Parliament ought to do its duty between every subject of the realm, without suggesting motives for action, and I do not wish this Bill to be an exception.

Amendment proposed :—

"In page 2, line 28, to leave out the words from the word 'may' to the word 'direct,' in line 32."—*(Sir Walter Foster.)*

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I can to a certain extent meet the hon. Member. I could

not accept the suggestion that only the Local Government Board should act, but I can meet the point raised by the hon. Member by striking out certain of the words objected to, so that the clause would then run that the Local Government Board or the Board of Agriculture may direct its officers to sample articles of food, &c.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR : To my mind the Solicitor-General does not seem to meet the whole of the objection made by my hon. friend to the clause as it now stands. The intention of the Government must be to entrust this matter either to one Department or another, and the one that initiates the Act will no doubt have the administration of it. I should like to see the duties entrusted definitely to the Local Government Board and not to both Boards.

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL : I think the Government ought to consider this point, because if it is left under two Departments it will be very difficult for the local authorities to put the law in motion at all. They will not know which Department to appeal to. In my view the administration of this Bill ought to be given to the Local Government Board, which is in touch with the local authorities day by day, and I think there will be very great objection on the part of the county councils to any dual control in these matters.

MR. BRYCE : Our objections to this clause are not entirely removed by the concession of the Solicitor-General, for the clause has to be considered in connection with Clause 3, and if the words "Local Government Board or Board of Agriculture" are retained we shall find a large series of duties alternating between two Boards. There is no precedent for such duality. We shall have two Departments working independently of each other, and two sets of inspectors, which will greatly add to the general confusion. I think the Government would do wisely in accepting the Amendment of my hon. friend.

***MR. SPEAKER :** I do not understand that any Amendment is moved by the Solicitor-General. What I understood was that the hon. Member would make a concession if the Amendment of

the hon. Baronet the Member for Glasgow was withdrawn.

SIR R. B. FINLAY : That is so.

***MR. LONG :** The course taken by hon. Gentlemen opposite is not likely to induce the Government to make concessions. As the Bill was introduced the authority for carrying out certain powers was the Board of Agriculture, and to meet the objections of hon. Gentlemen opposite the Government assented to the insertion of the words "Local Government Board." Now we found that that concession is to be turned into a handle for the elimination of the authority which originally stood in the Bill. That is to my mind a most unreasonable demand. We are prepared to stand by the Solicitor-General's undertaking, but only on the understanding that it is accepted by hon. Gentlemen opposite. If the House is to be asked to discuss that concession *plus* certain suggested additions, then we should much prefer to stand by the terms of the Bill as it is at present.

MR. LAMBERT : I certainly think that the Department which ought to deal with this matter is the Board of Agriculture. I think the Government would be well advised in striking out the words, whether the Amendment be pressed or not, because great difficulty has been experienced in getting local authorities to carry out the provisions of similar Acts, and for my part I should prefer that the administration of the Bill should be in the hands of the Board of Agriculture.

MR. LOUGH : In Clause 1 we deal with ports of entry, and in Clause 2 we are dealing with localities and not with ports of entry, and in the operation of the clause it will be found as we go on more and more impossible to exclude local authorities from administration. The best system of administration will be to delegate to the Local Government Board the duty of galvanising local authorities into life. Responsibility should lie with that Board to secure uniformity of action.

MR. HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) : It seems to me that the experience we have had of the Local Government Board does not justify the agricultural community in considering that Board a repre-

sentative authority for their interests. One of the main objects of the Bill is to look after agricultural produce in the interest of consumer and producer. In the preceding section the Customs authorities are required to give information to the Board of Agriculture, and I

fail to see that that would be of any use if power to take action were withheld from the Board.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 183 ; Noes, 68. (Division List, No. 281.)

AYES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn	FitzWygram, General Sir F.	Morell, George Herbert
Arrol, Sir William	Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)	Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)	Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Fry, Lewis	Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Baird, John George Alexander	Galloway, William Johnson	Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Banbury, Frederick George	Garfit, William	Myers, William Henry
Balcarres, Lord	Gedge, Sydney	Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Nicholson, William Graham
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Banbury, Frederick George	Gilliat, John Saunders	Northcote, Hon. Sir H. S.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick	Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Parkes, Ebenezer
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Brist'l)	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon	Penn, John
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Bigwood, James	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Purvis, Robert
Bond, Edward	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Rankin, Sir James
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Rentoul, James Alexander
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)	Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)	Richie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Bullard, Sir Harry	Gretton, John	Robinson, Brooke
Butcher, John George	Greville, Hon. Ronald	Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Carlile, William Walter	Gull, Sir Cameron	Royds, Clement Molyneux
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Hanson, Sir Reginald	Rutherford, John
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Hardy, Laurence	Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)	Hare, Thomas Leigh	Savory, Sir Joseph
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)	Helder, Augustus	Seely, Charles Hilton
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Henderson, Alexander	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Charrington, Spencer	Hobhouse, Henry	Sidebottom, T. H. (Stalybr.)
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)	Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jeese	Kearley, Hudson E.	Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready	Kemp, George	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Compton, Lord Alwyne	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William	Stock, James Henry
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Keswick, William	Strachey, Edward
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)	Kilbride, Denis	Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	Lafone, Alfred	Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Lambert, George	Thornton, Percy M.
Cranborne, Viscount	Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn	Tollemache, Henry James
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)	Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	Valentia, Viscount
Curzon, Viscount	Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)	Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Dalkeith, Earl of	Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)	Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'ns'a	Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham	Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.	Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardig'n)	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Denny, Colonel	Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)	Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)	Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
Dorington, Sir John Edward	Lopez, Henry Yarde Buller	Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Doughty, George	Lorne, Marquess of	Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Loyd, Archie Kirkman	Wrightson, Thomas
Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.	Lucas-Shadwell, William	Wylie, Alexander
Drucker, A.	Macartney, W. G. Ellison	Wyndham, George
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	MacIver, David (Liverpool)	Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward	MacLure, Sir John William	Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)	M'Killop, James	Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)	Massey-Mainwaring, Hon. W. F.	TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Finch, George H.	Mildmay, Francis Bingham	Sir William Walron and
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Milton, Viscount	Mr. Anstruther.
Firbank, Joseph Thomas	Milward, Colonel Victor	
Fisher, William Hayes	Morgan, Hon. F. (Monmouthsh.)	

Mr. Hobhouse.

NOES.

Allison, Robert Andrew
 Asher, Alexander
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hen.
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dewar, Arthur
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)

Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. Johh
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gordon, Sir William Brampton
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez E.
 Jocey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hn Sir U
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richard
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 McLaren, Charles Benjamin
 Maddison, Fred.
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morris, Samuel,
 Nussey, Thomas Willans

Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Warner, Thomas Cournenay T.
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Captain Sinclair and Mr.
 Jonathan Samuel.

Other Amendments made.

MR. STRACHEY : I contend that in cases where the analysis is in favour of the local authority that local authority should not be made to pay the cost. I think this is an Amendment in the nature of a compromise which the right hon. Gentleman might easily accept, and I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 3, to leave out the words of paragraph (b), of sub-section (1), of Clause 2.—
(Mr. Strachey.)

Question proposed : "That the words of paragraph (b) stand part of the Bill."

*MR. LONG : I am afraid it would be impossible for me to accept this compromise, for I think that to relieve the local authority which has been in default up to that moment, because a particular analysis found the article not to be adulterated, would be a very odd proceeding. I am sure the House will realise that if under the law as it stands the local authorities are to carry out the Acts, and are to be responsible for the expense, it would be a poor way to effect this, to tell them that if they would leave it to the central authority they would escape the cost. The Government Department cannot act at all unless they have *prima facie*

reasons for believing that the local authority is in default, and in those circumstances the local authority ought to pay.

Question put, and negatived.

Another Amendment made.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 20, to leave out the words from the word 'food' to the words 'the Board,' in line 22."—*(Sir Walter Foster.)*

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON : I desire to move the omission of Clause 4, because it makes a fundamental change in the existing law, and I very much prefer the law as it is. Under this clause the right hon. Gentleman takes the right of fixing the standards in regard to milk, cream, butter, and cheese. In the Act of 1872 one part deals with adulterations which are injurious to health, and the other part deals with the adulterations. At the present moment, if an adulteration takes place, the law provides machinery for trying whether it is injurious to health, and the court decides this point,

and until such decision has been arrived at these very serious penalties do not ensue. But under this proposal, instead of expert evidence being taken, the right hon. Gentleman, on his own responsibility, undertakes to declare that a certain admixture is injurious to health. I have no doubt this power is aimed at the preservatives in butter and milk, although there is a Committee now inquiring into this subject. I have no desire to labour the question, but the introduction of the words enabling the right hon. Gentleman to declare what is injurious to health in connection with the third section of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, would effect such an important change that it must be regarded as a matter of very serious importance. I think attention should be called to this subject, and if the House desires that to be the law it should pronounce it with its eyes open. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 1, to leave out Clause 4."—
(Sir Charles Cameron).

Question proposed, "That the words to the word 'in,' in line 5, stand part of the Bill."

*MR. LONG : I do not think that this clause lays down what is injurious to health. The House will remember that the appointment of a committee of reference for the establishment of standards of purity is a question in which a great deal of interest has been taken. This subject was carefully inquired into by the Committee, and one of their recommendations was that a committee of reference for the selection of standards of purity should be appointed. When we took up the consideration of this question we felt that the difficulties in the way of carrying out that recommendation were insuperable, and that great risks would be run if such a committee were to be appointed ; and that while undoubtedly this would be

the case the advantages to be derived from such a committee, if appointed, would be very doubtful. At the same time, we felt that it was very desirable that something should be done to guide expert opinion upon these questions. We therefore adopted what is now contained in Clause 4 as a sort of compromise. Having arrived at the conclusion that it was desirable to appoint a committee of experts and others, we thought that committee would be able to examine these different questions, and advise us as to what ought to be the proper regulations. At present, unfortunately, there is occasionally a difficulty to be found in the difference of the opinion of the district analyst and the analyst acting for the Government. What we hope is that there shall be established a presumption of what is to be pure food, and having got that we are hopeful that it will result in bringing together the Government analyst and the district analyst and providing them with information of a definite character. We believe that by helping in this way we shall be simplifying the procedure and making it more efficient. I hope the House will not consent to the omission of this clause.

SIR WALTER FOSTER said that the clause whilst it proposed to raise the presumption of standards did not show in what way that presumption was to be obtained. In his opinion the matter would have been much better dealt with by a Departmental Committee. He did not think the scheme proposed in the clause would work at all well, and therefore he would be very glad to see it omitted from the Bill.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 141 ; Noes, 44. (Division List, No. 282.)

AYES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn

Arrol, Sir William

Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitz Roy

Balcarres, Lord

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manc'r.)

Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)

Barton, Dunbar Plunket*

Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.

Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)

Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe

Bentinck, Lord Henry C.

Bond, Edward

Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-

Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John

Brookfield, A. Montagu

Carlile, William Walter

Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)

Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)

Channing, Francis Allston

Charrington, Spencer

Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)

Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.

Sir Charles Cameron,

{ 18 JULY 1899 }

Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, Fienne^s Stanley W.
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
 Denny, Colonel
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. H. Akers-
 Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S.
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Gedde, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Rt Hn G (St George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, W. D. (Wednesday)
 Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.

Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kemp, George
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lambert, George
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkhead)
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Killop, James
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Morgan, Hon. F. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Murray, Itt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian

Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robinson, Brooke
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stock, James Henry
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whiteley, H. (Asht'n-under-L.)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wodehouse, Rt Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
 Billson, Alfred
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Colville, John
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dewar, Arthur
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)

Evershed, Sydney
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Ed.
 Jocey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McCrae, George
 McLaren, Charles Benjamin

Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S. E.)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton-on-Tees)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Stuart, James (Shoreditch)
 Sullivan, Donald (Westmeath)
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Charles Cameron and
 Captain Sinclair.

Other Amendments made.

Further consideration, as amended, de-
 ferred till To-morrow.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT (1898)
 AMENDMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported,
 without Amendment; read the third
 time, and passed.

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METROPOLITAN POLICE (SALARIES.)
 Resolution reported, "That it is ex-
 pedient to authorise the payment, out
 of moneys to be provided by Parlia-
 ment, of the salaries of the Commis-
 sioner of Police of the Metropolis, the
 Receiver of the Metropolitan Police Dis-
 trict, and the Assistant Commissioners of
 Police of the Metropolis."

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Secretary Sir Matthew White Ridley and Mr. Jesse Collings.

METROPOLITAN POLICE [SALARIES] (No. 2) BILL.

"To amend the Law with respect to the salaries and allowances of the Commissioner, Receiver, and Assistant Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 277.)

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) [EXPENSES].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of an annual sum, not exceeding £25,000, for the purposes of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts, including the payment of the salaries or remuneration of officers employed by the Board, and the administrative expenses of the Board, in pursuance of any Act of the present session relating to the Congested Districts Board (Ireland)."

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid.) said he felt bound to enter a protest against the method adopted in those matters which affected both Ireland and Scotland. The Irish Bills were always brought forward, but the Scotch were left to take their chance.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) also protested, but raised no objection so long as an amount equivalent to that given to Ireland by this Bill was given to Scotland.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

NAVAL WORKS [CONSOLIDATED FUND].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, (1) That it is expedient to make further provision for the construction of works in the United Kingdom and elsewhere for the purposes of the Royal

Navy, and to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums not exceeding in the whole £3,100,000, as may be required for those purposes, and to apply the provisions of The Naval Works Act, 1895, and of The Naval Works Act, 1896 (as to the mode of raising money, and as to the application of surplus income) to the said purposes. (2) That it is expedient to amend the law with respect to the construction and use of tramways for naval purposes.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN OVERTIME IN WASHING BOTTLES, ETC.

The following notice of motion stood on the Paper in the name of Sir JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster)—

"That the Order of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, extending to factories and workshops in which the washing of bottles for use in the preserving of fruit is carried on, the special exception (Employment of Women Overtime) ought to be annulled."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) asked when this motion would be taken, and stated that on the previous day many hon. Gentlemen had made arrangements under the belief that it was definitely postponed until that day. It was a matter which was exciting a great deal of interest, and the right hon. Baronet thought it would be convenient if the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury could give a definite promise as to when it would be discussed.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) thought it would meet the convenience of hon. Members if the matter, although appearing on the Paper, should be put off to some night when it could be taken at a fairly early period of the evening. He had some little difficulty in fixing a day for its discussion, but he would endeavour to fix an early date.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at
One of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 19th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

BRISTOL GAS BILL [Lords].

Lords Amendment to Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

MIDLAND AND SOUTH-WESTERN JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

OWENS COLLEGE, MANCHESTER, BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

HUMBER CONSERVANCY BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

PETITIONS.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petitions in favour, from Bradford, and Lee; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petitions for alteration of law, from Kincardine, and Banff; to lie upon the Table.

TELEGRAPHHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION, ETC.) BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, against; to lie upon the Table.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Petition from Oldham, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

EAST INDIA (ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES, 1899-1900).

Copy presented, of Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

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EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented, of Report of the Committee of Council on Education (England and Wales), with Appendix, 1898-9 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (ENGINES AND BOILERS OF SHIPS).

Copy ordered, "of Tables and Weights of Machinery, etc., of certain Ships of the Royal Navy fitted with Water-Tube and Cylindrical Return-Tube Boilers; together with the indicated Horse Power, Consumption of Coal per Indicated Horse Power, and Speed obtained by them on Trials during recent years." — (Mr. Goschen.)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 282.]

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time." — (Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.)

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I confess I really cannot make out from the data which are given to the public by the Chancellor of the Exchequer what we are to pay to the company, nor do I believe the right hon. Gentleman, able financier as we know him to be, would be able to do so himself simply upon the papers which we have before us. Under ordinary circumstances, if the House is to exercise any control, the matter would be referred to a Select Committee, and that Select Committee would hear evidence on the subject. It is exceedingly difficult for us to form any opinion (and I say it with all respect to the Chancellor of the Exchequer) upon the general speeches made by the right hon. Gentleman, and upon the criticisms thereof which have been advanced. The only fact that is absolutely clear to me is that we have got to pay the sum of £865,000. That is admitted. How, in the name of wonder, is this sum made up? We have first the balance-sheet, and then the administrative expenditure. The first balance-sheet is that of 1884. There we find that the capital of the company

amounted to 195,000 shares, which were given to some old company bought out by this company. A little lower down I see £115,000 expended for the goodwill of this old company in excess of this £195,000 worth of shares. The only shares that I can see sold for cash are shares on which £2 was paid up, and that amounts to £133,350. Then we get into further difficulties when we come to the loan. The right hon. Gentleman tells us that a portion of the money we have to pay is for a loan of £250,000 which the company was authorised to raise, and which was charged on the customs duties. In 1888 this loan is stated at £133,000 and the interest at £6,050; but the greater part of the loan was actually held by the company, and was unissued. It has been admitted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the shareholders were given 30 per cent. on their holdings as a sort of bonus.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): Not as a bonus.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Well, 30 per cent. was given to them, whether we call it a bonus or anything else, and, as I understand, that 30 per cent. went into the pockets of the shareholders. In no case was it expended on the service of the company. When you get to the balance-sheets you find quite a different story. The loan has sprung up to £250,000, and the interest is put down in the revenue account as £12,500 per annum. I would like to know how much of that loan was really issued to the public, and what was done with it. Was it expended on the company or was it not? Certainly the 30 per cent. could not have been.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: Shall I explain now, or would the hon. Member prefer to complete his speech?

MR. LABOUCHERE: If the right hon. Gentleman wishes to explain now he can, but as I have one or two more points perhaps it would be more convenient that I should finish my speech. So much for the capital of the company. One of the things we buy from this company is an assorted cargo of treaties, which they have made with divers chiefs and others in the interior of Africa. I should like to know what was paid for

Mr. Labouchere.

these treaties. I presume something was paid, either in the form of cotton goods or gin, but certainly in regard to about fifty of them absolutely nothing was paid for them. The company have not bought them in any sort of way, but under them they assumed certain responsibilities, and, as I understand, this country has agreed to pay a certain sum of money per annum. The company have bought none of these treaties, and, therefore, they have nothing to sell. Then there is the question of the purchase of land. It appears that certain lands on the Niger are to be bought from the company. Are we to understand that the company has all the lands on the Niger? Are we to suppose that they have acquired a species of commercial monopoly and can prevent others from having landing and trading places on the Niger? That seems to me absolutely impossible. I do not suppose that these chiefs sold the whole of their lands. They gave the company, in all probability, a specific plot of land on which to build their trading station, but it cannot be supposed that the company own these lands in the sense that a person owns property in this country. If they do, how was it acquired? What did they pay for it? There is another point. The Government have agreed to pay to the company 50 per cent. of all the royalties they may exact—and these really are the speculative chances of the whole thing—in addition to the sum they pay down. Having done all this, and having given the company all these things, what do we get for the money we are paying? It appears to me we leave the company all the advantages it has ever possessed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has stated that others will be able to trade there under the new order of things. But has the right hon. Gentleman himself read the charter? Is he aware that Clause 14 specifically provides that the company shall have no sort of trade monopoly? Anybody may go there and trade with them under equal conditions. We leave the company the right to trade there, and we do not deprive them of any sort of monopoly. They never had a monopoly, and consequently they cannot sell one. We also give them, so far as I see, the pick of the landing places on the Niger, while we undertake the administration of the country and agree to pay all the administrative expenditure. Why, therefore,

we should be called upon to pay any money at all I confess I do not know. I find on looking at the balance-sheet for 1898, the company expended in subsidies and on matters of administration £15,993. They will not have to pay that in the future. They paid for the constabulary force £41,137, and for steamers, less the amount charged against the company for freight on their own goods, £29,527. They further paid £21,000 for salaries and £7,000 for home administration. On the other side—the revenue—the imports of the Royal Niger Company were £62,794. What does that mean? Does it mean the duties they collected on these imports? The exports were £48,981. Does that mean duty also?

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH was understood to reply in the affirmative.

MR. LABOUCHERE: They received then this amount in duties as against their expenditure. I presume we shall have those duties in the future. But is the right hon. Gentleman prepared to say that we shall be able to administer the country and pay all these subsidies and constabulary and other expenses out of the total of £113,000? We know perfectly well that the cost will be greater to the Imperial Government than it is to the company, which wants to earn as much dividend as it possibly can, and so "skimps" its administrative expenditure as much as possible. We ought to have some explanation of all these matters, for with the information now before us we are not in a position to say whether the sum proposed to be paid to the company is fair or unfair. It seems to me, on such *dutti* as we have, to be an excessive sum. Not only have the shareholders already received an equivalent to a bonus of 30 per cent. on their holdings, but they are to receive an extra 20 per cent., as the shares are to be bought at a premium of 20 per cent. I am not going to raise the point for the moment of the expediency of taking over this large territory, with its 30,000,000 of human beings, for whose good government we are making ourselves responsible. We are taking over these responsibilities because a charter was granted to certain persons to trade in this country, and our Government agreed to treaties which the company made with certain chiefs in the interior of Africa. We have, solely in consequence

of this, to take over as part and parcel of the British Empire a huge district in Western Central Africa coterminous with the French frontier there, and which, in my opinion, we had far better have left alone. I hope that this will be an object-lesson to the House and to all future Governments not to grant these charters. I do not think this particular charter is the sort of speculative, disreputable, gambling affair which is the case with that of the British South Africa Company, but still we are forced into taking all these responsibilities upon ourselves simply because we have granted a commercial charter to certain persons to trade in these districts.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): I must protest against the manner in which this Bill has been brought on. Wednesday is most inconvenient for many hon. Members, and I need only mention the case of the hon. Member for East Mayo, who has taken a very keen interest in this measure, and is opposed to it both in principle and in regard to its details. At this moment he is engaged on a Grand Committee upstairs, and I daresay other hon. Members are in the same position. I came down here at twelve o'clock, but was called out by some of the many visitors with whose presence we are favoured at this time of the year, and when I returned I found that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had moved the Bill simply by raising his hat. If it had not been for the vigilance of the hon. Member for Northampton it would have gone through its Second Reading without a single word of discussion. I do not think the right hon. Gentleman has dealt fairly with the House in bringing forward the Bill in that way. The matter is made worse by the circumstance that on the previous occasion when the question was before us stress was laid upon the fact that that was practically only a formal stage, and as a matter of fact a colleague of the right hon. Gentleman declared that while he would not vote on the subsequent stages of the Bill he felt entitled to do so then as that was a purely formal stage. The result is that this is practically the first opportunity since the formal stage the House has had of discussing this question, and although the Bill involves nearly a million of money, and the acquisition of a large space of territory, and nearly 30,000,000 or

40,000,000 of new subjects of the Crown, it is brought on at twelve o'clock on a Wednesday sitting at the fag end of the session. I agree with the hon. Member for Northampton that this chartered company has some favourable points of contrast with other chartered companies; and I believe it has been free mainly from stock-jobbing operations. At the same time I think I am entitled to make these observations. Some people are noted for their virtues and some attain fame by their vices. I believe that the best argument in favour of this Bill is to be found in some of the acts which can be laid to the charge of the company. I have asked several of my friends to speak in the discussion of the details of this measure, but the invariable answer has been that they are so relieved at the idea of the country being emancipated from the dangers and the practically unlimited responsibilities connected with a chartered company that they are not going to look into the details at all. I interpret that as meaning that the Royal Niger Company has done things which have been so dangerous to the welfare and safety of the country that people are willing to get rid of it at any cost. The right hon. Gentleman in his opening speech gave, as one of the reasons why this company ought to be bought out, that it had brought the country to the brink of war with another nation. A company which brings two great nations to the brink of war is a company which we may very well be glad to be rid of, but that does not afford what I regard as a rational ground for giving one penny more to this company than it is entitled to.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: The hon. Member is not quoting me fairly. I did not say the company was to blame; in the action which it took the company was only defending its rights against others.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: Does the right hon. Gentleman think it is a desirable position that a company in defending its rights—I do not think it was defending its rights, as a matter of fact—but does he think it right for a company to be in a position to imperil the peace of two great empires, in defence of its pounds shillings and pence? That seems to me to be a

Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

very extraordinary position to take up. As a matter of fact, was the company defending its rights? I think the company was on many occasions exceeding its rights, and if it were not for the natural inclination of people to back up their own countrymen, this company would have been condemned for many of its proceedings. By the very terms of its charter the company was forbidden to exercise any monopoly. That very monopoly on which it relied, and in consequence of which it got into disputes in many cases, was in direct contradiction of the terms of the charter, because the fourteenth clause of the charter is in these words (the heading is—"Prohibition of Monopoly"): "Nothing in this charter shall be deemed to authorise the company to set up or grant any monopoly of trade; and subject only"—and so on—"but foreigners alike with British subjects will be subject to administrative dispositions in the interests of commerce and of order." It clearly shows that this company had no right whatever to a monopoly in these regions. My hon. friend has alluded to the treaties. I would just like the House to look at one or two of those treaties, and see how far they are in conformity with the terms of the charter; but before I come to that point I should like to deal with the relations of this company to the Treaty of Berlin. The heading of the clause is—"Conformity to Treaties," and the words are:

"The company shall be subject to, and shall perform, observe, and undertake all the obligations and stipulations relating to the River Niger, its affluents, branches, and outlets, or the territories neighbouring thereto, or situate in Africa, contained in and undertaken by ourselves under the general Act of the Conference of the Great Powers at Berlin, dated the 26th February, 1885, or in any other treaty, agreement, or arrangement between ourselves and any other State or Power, whether already made or hereafter to be made."

So that apart from the fact that this company is directly prohibited from establishing a monopoly, it is also under the Treaty of Berlin, which at least agreed upon the free navigation of the Niger River. Now let us look at the treaties, those treaties for which the company paid very little, if anything at all, and which we are now to acquire from them at a large price. If the House will look at pages 22 and 23 of this White Book they

will find specimens of these treaties. This is Form No. 1 :

"The National African Company, Limited, will reserve to themselves the right of excluding foreign settlers."

In Form No. 2 we find these words :

"The said company reserve to themselves the right of excluding foreign settlers other than those now settled in the country."

I ask the right hon. Gentleman, can the proviso in these treaties stand as in accord with the provision of the charter which prevents them having any monopoly, and with the terms of the Treaty of Berlin? You go through all these treaties, and almost the main provision is the exclusion of foreigners from these territories. The consideration, by the way, is almost always carefully left out, so that we do not know what shape it took or to what it amounted. I do not say that the Niger Company, in defending what the Chancellor of the Exchequer is pleased to call its rights against others, was really going beyond the terms of its own charter, and giving just ground for complaint to other countries, but the best commentary on the manner in which it has carried out its work is afforded in these Papers. It would be a mistake to suppose that France is the only country that has had any reason to complain. Englishmen have had nearly as much reason to complain as Frenchmen, because the whole tendency of this company has been to destroy 'anything like competition with its operations in this district. There are some remarkable figures on the last page of this White Book, in the table of the revenue of the Niger Company. "Imports: Royal Niger Company, £62,794; others, £260." So that of the £63,054, all the rivals together of the Niger Company got exactly £260. "Exports: Royal Niger Company, £48,981"; no other person got any money whatsoever. On licenses, the Royal Niger Company got £480, while all its rivals got, under "Miscellaneous," was £790. It is clear from that that the Niger Company, by, as I hold, an entirely unjust extension of its rights, succeeded in destroying all competition whatsoever, not only of Frenchmen, but of all other nationalities also. That is the reason why I think I am justified in the statement that a great deal of the facility with which this Bill will be

passed through the House without any investigation of its details is due to the sense of relief that the Niger Company is to be deprived of the opportunity of embroiling us with foreign Governments, and of practically killing all trade competition. I must confess that I am quite unable to reconcile the statement of the Government with the figures before me. The Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs was asked the other day whether this £443,000 was all money paid up, or whether, to use a popular term, the stock was in any way "watered," and the answer was that it was all paid up money. I find in one of the financial papers a statement made—I do not know whether correctly or incorrectly—that the whole sum paid up by the shareholders was £168,490. If that is so, I think they are making a very good bargain indeed under the terms of the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. My hon. friend has pointed out how the £443,000 is made up. I will just call the attention of the House again to these figures, because they are very remarkable. "To capital authorised, 100,000 shares of £10 each equals £1,000,000, of which 66,675 shares have been issued, and £2 per share paid, equals £133,350." I understand there have been some more paid shares, which bring the sum up to that mentioned by the financial paper to which I referred, viz., £168,490. In addition to that, the company claims 31,000 shares fully paid, making £310,000. As far as I can understand the accounts, these shares were given in return for the assets of two companies bought up by the Niger Company. Shares given for assets are very different from shares given for money down, and it is quite an abuse of financial terms to describe shares as money paid when they represent simply paper given to rival companies for their assets. What was the value of those assets? Everybody knows that "assets" is a very loose and elastic term, and I think the matter is one we ought to inquire into. I maintain the opinion I formed with regard to this proposal when it was first presented. I believe the company is being over-paid. I believe you are buying the costly and losing part of the company's concern, leaving to it practically intact the trading part, and finally I object to this Bill because I believe it to be a most dangerous precedent for this House to adopt.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead) : I had occasion to put a question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the steamers that are to be taken over by the Government, and he referred me to the schedules. I would now like to ask the right hon. Gentleman a few questions with reference to the huge amount which is to be paid for the vessels named in the schedules. In the first schedule there is a hulk at £1,100, another at £1,945, a steam launch at £800, another at £550, and boats at £100, making a total of £4,495 in the first schedule. I would ask the right hon. Gentleman are these old hulks of wood or iron? If they are of wood they are pretty well rotten, and if of iron pretty well rusted. In the second schedule I find £6,900 for two hulks, which are vessels without rigging or engines, and have to be towed about. The only vessel which is being taken over is the "Liberty," valued at £9,500. Then there are five launches for which the large sum of £3,150 is to be paid, and two little pinnaces at £350 making a total of £24,395 in the two schedules to be given for four old hulks, seven steam launches, two pinnaces, and one steamer. I should like also to know whether the Government is taking over the boats that stand on Lloyd's list in the name of the Royal Niger Company. I find in Lloyd's, seven or eight steamers, all a pretty large size, owned by the company. Are these steamers being taken over? If not, the company has retained all its good steamers and handed over the old hulks. I think the Chancellor of the Exchequer should give us a complete explanation regarding this matter. Are the company's steamers standing in Lloyd's list to be taken over?

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : No, Sir.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN : Then we are practically paying £24,395 for one steamer. The rest are hulks and pinnaces. If we are not taking over the other steamers in Lloyd's list, the company is going to continue its business with the assistance of its most valuable steamers. I think we ought to have an explanation of the payment of £24,395 for these old hulks.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) : I should like to ask a few questions re-

garding this Bill as it affects the British Exchequer itself. The upshot of the matter as far as we are concerned is that we are adding to the debt of this country the sum of £820,000, which is to be paid off by terminable annuities in thirty years. It may be paid off in a different way to that in which the National Debt is paid off, but it is an additional burden on the country all the same. It is another instance of the manner in which the present Government is adding to the debt of the country. In addition to the £820,000 there is a further sum of £45,000, and I should like to know whether a Supplementary Estimate is to be passed for that amount during the present session.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : Yes, Sir.

MR. BUCHANAN : Then that means that we are to have an addition of £45,000 to the Estimate. The Chancellor of the Exchequer told us in his speech that this amount would be debited against these territories, and he added that he believed that before many years it would be paid off. I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman how far Clause 3 in any way makes this sum a charge upon the revenue of these territories. I do not know what the precedent for that clause may be, but, as I read it, it does not make it clear at all that this sum will be a debit on these territories. What it comes to is that when the territories are amalgamated and the Budget is made up, the Treasury is to examine the accounts presented by the Colonial Office, and in so far as the receipts from the territories administered by the company at the passing of this Act are in excess of the necessary expenses of the administration of those territories, that excess shall be paid into the Exchequer, but with this exception, that the Colonial Office may say "Oh, no. We want this money for the improvement of these territories," and the Treasury is to be empowered to agree. There may therefore be an administrative profit in a portion of this United Nigeria now administered by the Niger Company, and the Treasury may say "It ought to be paid into the British Exchequer in payment of the debt," but the Colonial Office may step in and say, "No; we want this money for the development of these territories."

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : With the consent of the Treasury.

MR. BUCHANAN : Certainly. But is that placing a charge on the revenue of these territories ? This clause gives no security to the British taxpayer that this money is to be made a real charge on the revenue of these territories. I think if it were meant to be a reality the profits should extend over the whole of United Nigeria. I hardly think the clause as it stands carries out the intention of the Government, because it only applies to the territories administered by the company "at the passing of this Act." That would not include Lagos and other territories. I should also wish for some information with regard to the future administration of these territories. Really, when we are asked to consent to pay £800,000 to buy up the Niger Company, I think we ought to have some kind of assurance from the Government not only that we are getting our money's worth, but that we are to have some substantial improvement in the administration and government of the colony. We have only got some very meagre information from the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to the future administration of these territories.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : As I stated the other day, the future administration of these territories will be with the Colonial Office. I merely stated generally the lines upon which the administration would be conducted, and I referred hon. Members to my right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary for further details on the matter.

MR. BUCHANAN : We hope we may get them. As this is a very substantial and important part of the considerations on which we reject or accept the Bill, we have a right to obtain from the Chancellor of the Exchequer some fuller statement than we already possess. The Colonial Secretary stated that he would not take part in any further Divisions on this Bill owing to the fact that he was a shareholder in the company, but that does not get rid of his responsibility. As Colonial Secretary it is his duty to come forward and state to the House the mode in which these territories are to be administered in the future, in order that we may be able to judge whether, if we do pay this large sum of money to buy out the company,

we are going to get value for it—if not in money, then in the shape of better administration and better government. That has a practical bearing on some of the details in the proposals of the Niger Company. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer interrupted me, I was going to quote what he told us some time ago. He said that,

" Throughout these territories, all inland customs frontiers will be abolished, and there will be perfect freedom of trade to all alike. There will be a common arms law throughout the whole region, and a common tariff, except that the importation of trade spirits into Northern Nigeria will be prohibited, as now. For the present, and until a healthy site for a capital can be selected and better means of communication provided, the territories will be divided for administrative purposes into three divisions, all under the control of the Colonial Office. One division will be Lagos, with its present area ; the next will be Southern Nigeria, composed of the Niger Coast Protectorate and part of the Niger Company's territories, nearly half as large again as now ; and the third, Northern Nigeria, composed of the rest of the company's territories."

Then the Chancellor of the Exchequer told us, as he has already said, that

" for any detailed statement of future arrangements for the government of our territories in this part of the world, I think I ought to refer hon. Members to my right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted, therefore, that it was right and proper for Members to ask that some information should be given as to what was to be the future government and administration of these territories. I take it that they have to be amalgamated into one large territory, under one responsible Government, which is to consist of three divisions. We have been told by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that in Northern Nigeria the prohibition of the importation of spirits which at present exists will still be continued. I ask him how that is to be done in the future, for he has told us that the part of the Niger Territory along the coast adjoining the Niger Coast Protectorate is to be amalgamated with the third division, and there is to be one tariff law, and all customs limitations are to be broken down. If you break down all customs regulations between Northern Nigeria and the rest of the Niger Territory, how are you going to continue the prohibition of the importation of alcoholic spirits into Northern Nigeria ? If you break down the cus-

toms boundary, how on earth will it be possible to keep spirits out of Northern Nigeria? That shows how necessary it is that we should know something of the details of the regulations for the government and administration of these territories. How was it done in the past? It was done in this way: the Niger Company had control over a certain part of the Guiana from the mouth of the Niger River, which is the chief entrance into this vast tract of territory, and they therefore could and did enforce the prohibition of the importation of spirits into Northern Nigeria. It is to the credit of the company, and it distinguishes them from any other trading enterprises in Africa, that all through their career they have taken a very strong and honest line about the importation of spirits. We hear very much about the complaints of other traders, but we must remember that that trade jealousy was largely due to the Niger Company preventing these traders pouring spirits into that part of Africa. The White Paper in the hands of hon. Members tells us the imports and the amount of revenue which the company derived from these imports, but it does not tell us the rates of duty imposed, and particularly the rate of duty on spirits. My recollection is that when some Papers were presented to Parliament two years ago the rate of duties on spirits imposed by the Niger Company was three or four times as great as that imposed by the Territory of Lagos and by the Niger Coast Protectorate. Under this Bill you are going to equalise the tariff all over these territories, and to have the comparatively low rate of 3s. per gallon on spirits. Now, what will infallibly ensue will be an immediate rush of the importation of spirits into the mouth of the Niger River, from which traders would get an entry into the interior of Africa, which has been hitherto practically closed, and you will be unable to maintain that prohibition of the importation of spirits into Northern Nigeria which has been so profitable and commendable a feature in the policy of the company in the past. The Government ought to realise the fact that the Niger Company has been a great agency in keeping out the importation of spirits from that part of Africa. It was only yesterday that the Colonial Secretary in answer to the hon. Member for Flintshire stated that in 1898 the number of gallons

of spirits imported was—into Lagos, 1,366,794 gallons; into the Niger Coast Protectorate, 1,164,108 gallons; and into the Niger Company's territories at the mouth of the Niger, 176,068 gallons. Therefore you have imported into the Niger Company's territories only about a tenth of the amount of spirits imported into Central Africa through Lagos, or through the Niger Coast Protectorate; or one twentieth of the amount that goes through the ports of both these territories combined. If you are going to abolish all customs restrictions, I cannot see how it is possible that we shall not have a largely increased amount of importation of spirits into that part of Africa, and how it will be possible for the Government to maintain the prohibition of the importation of spirits, which is one of the inducements held out to us to pass this Bill.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke): There is one provision in the Bill that does not appear to me to be very well advised, and that is that the amount to be paid to the Niger Company is to come out of the Consolidated Fund, and to be made a charge against the territory. I have lived in many colonies in various stages of development, and I hold that this proposal contains the seed of future trouble, and for this reason, that when Local Government is established, as no doubt it will be in time, a ready grievance will be furnished to agitators, who will say, "We are asked to pay tribute to the mother country." The reason for the advance of this money will be forgotten; all that will be remembered will be that so much money is to come out of the revenues of the country, and to be paid over to the Imperial Treasury. It would be very much better if the colony were at once to create a debt of its own, due to private individuals, and not to the Imperial Exchequer. If that were done, no complaint could be made against the mother country appearing as a creditor. I cannot imagine anything worse than the mother country being a creditor of any of our dependencies. Of course, I quite understand that the colony of Nigeria could not borrow at the rate that the mother country can borrow, but with a guarantee given by the mother country, I can see no difficulty in the debt charge being made no greater than if the mother country

raised the money; and there would in future be no occasion for charges of oppression from Downing Street, or from the Government at home.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): There is general agreement, I think, with the principle contained in the Bill, namely, that it is an advantage to the country that this Chartered Company should cease to act as an administrative body, and that the Crown should take control over Nigeria. That is perfectly clear; for we have the responsibility of the international relations with France and Germany, and we ought to have the power to enforce our government completely in regard to that district. Then, the case for many years against the Niger Company was that it had a monopoly of trade, and it is about time that that was brought to an end. On the general political principle, therefore, and on the general commercial principle, I am bound to say that there is no possible objection to the Second Reading of the Bill, and I, for one, will give it my support. But I think that there seems to be a good deal of force in some of the criticisms on points of detail. The hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire pointed out that the validity and goodness of the bargain with the Niger Company depends largely on what we propose to do with the country when we have obtained it. He has pointed out that under the very unfortunate circumstance of the Secretary of State, who is chiefly responsible for this arrangement, being hampered in taking any part in regard to these matters, we are left in total ignorance as to what is proposed. I think the point raised by my hon. friend is a very good one indeed, and one on which we are entitled to information—I allude especially to what he said about the liquor traffic. As things stand, we are actually placing ourselves in this position—that we shall have a greater trade in spirits throughout Nigeria under the Imperial Government than we had under the auspices of the Chartered Company. There is also another point. The Chartered Company, greatly to their credit, have entirely abolished and prohibited the status of slavery. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will inform the House whether the other parts of Nigeria will be brought up to the standard of the

Chartered Company in that respect. Though I am not opposing the Second Reading, I think we are entitled to thoroughly scrutinise the financial proposals of the Government, and to ask for further information than that contained in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Papers before us. I have studied these Papers as carefully as I can, and I am bound to say that they throw very little further light on the explanation given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I have no doubt that there is a complete explanation on the part of the Treasury as to the terms on which they propose to purchase this company. The Treasury can very seldom be accused of excess of generosity, but as far as the Papers go, I am bound to say that the sum proposed for the purchase of the company appears to me somewhat excessive. What, practically, is that sum? The company are going to have their debt paid, and in addition they are to get a bonus of £50,000; and they are going to have the whole of their capital re-paid, and in addition £70,000. You are going to relieve them of their administrative expenditure, which has landed them into a deficit during the last twelve years of £24,000 a year, and they are going to retain the whole of their trade profits, and we are to take over from them that part of their business which has involved them in a loss. I do not say that these terms may not be proper terms, but I think they require some justification before we commit ourselves to them. I entirely agree that we ought to treat the Chartered Company with liberality and even generosity, because it has, on the whole, dealt properly with such important questions as slavery and the liquor traffic, and really deserves generous consideration on the part of this country when we come to buy it over. But that does not in any way justify us in abstaining from scrutinising the terms proposed by the Government, so that we may not buy a pig in a poke. The proposal of the Government is, as I understand it, substantially this: the total capital assets of the company amount to £750,000, and they are to receive the sum of £860,000, so that they practically get a bonus of £100,000. The assets are divided into four items. The first item is £115,000 for certain boats, stores, etc., which the Government are taking over. I think it is quite right

that when the Government take over the administration of the company they should buy from the company that stock which has to do with the administration of the company. I am quite incapable of saying whether £115,000 is or is not a fair sum. My hon. friend the member for Gateshead pointed out one or two items, which may or may not be excessive; but this is a matter for examination on the part of the Treasury. For my part, I think the sum of £115,000 is, on the whole, a fair sum. The next item is a debt of £250,000, for which the holders are going to receive £300,000. This requires some explanation. According to the balance-sheet, £133,000 is in the hands of private holders, while the other £117,000 is in the hands of the company. I can understand the proposal as regards the £133,000 in the hands of private holders, but I think we are entitled to some explanation as to why we should, upon the £117,000, which is in the coffers of the company itself, pay this bonus of 20 per cent. Then there remain the other two items—namely, £300,000 for unexhausted improvements, and £150,000 for the purchase of land and minerals. As regards the last item, I think there is a great deal of force in what fell from my hon. friend the Member for Northampton, that there is absolutely no attempt to give us the basis on which the land and the minerals are valued, in order to show us whether they are worth £150,000 or £10,000. The Chancellor of the Exchequer himself said that as regards minerals none had yet been discovered, but that it was possible they might be discovered. Still, he practically said it was a prospective matter altogether, and I do not think therefore we can put their value very high. In addition to that—and this is really the point on which I trust the Government will see their way to make some alteration when we come to the Committee stage—the company are to retain 50 per cent. of any royalty charged by the Crown in respect of minerals for 99 years. I think that will hamper very considerably the action of the Government with regard to minerals, and I would suggest that it would be very much better to buy out the interest of the company altogether. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that these lands and minerals have been bought out of the trading profits of the

company. I find that during the twelve years of its existence the trading profits of the company have amounted to £70,000, so that it is clear that if the lands and minerals were bought out of trade profits, a very excessive sum is being paid for them on this part of the account. I think the House ought to remember that the finance of this company is divided into two parts. There is the trading concern and there is the administrative concern. On the trading concern there is a very fair profit, but on the administrative concern there is an annual loss of £24,000. Why should we pay £300,000 to this company for relieving them of that which at the present moment entails upon them an annual loss of £24,000? I think the company ought to have paid something to the Government for relieving them of this particular item. I do not think the company should receive any compensation for the loss of the monopoly, because in the first place they were prohibited from obtaining it; and in the second place, having obtained it, they have enjoyed the benefit of it for twelve years. I quite agree that we ought to give a fair price for the purchase of the company, but I do not think we should give an exceptional one, and upon that point I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman on what basis does he fix the value of the lands and minerals, and on what grounds is he going to pay the company £300,000 for an annual loss of £24,000. Upon the point as to whether the Government are paying a fair price, the market price of the shares of the company is a very good test of a bargain of this description. I went to the trouble of looking up the prices, and I found that while, in July two years ago, a £10 share was worth between £10 and £11, at the present time it is worth just double. Therefore, I do not think the terms are excessive, but I think the House is entitled to some further explanation from the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I think he should supplement the statement which he made the other day, and give us something more than the confusing and limited accounts which he put before us. I trust he will be able to prove to us that the country is not paying too high a price for this Niger Company.

*MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): When the subject matter of this discussion was before the House in the form of a Resolution I voted against it. I took that course not from any hostility to the object of the Resolution, but because I thought it was not a proper thing for this House to bind itself to a large expenditure without having the information before us upon which we could arrive at a just judgment. We have now the substance of the resolution before us, and I am not inclined to oppose the Bill. The considerations before the House are twofold. Ought we to take over the administration of the territories hitherto administered by the Royal Niger Company, and, if so, are we getting value for the price we are asked to pay? Now, in the first place, it certainly seems to me that sooner or later it was inevitable that the Government should take over the administrative functions of the Company. No one who has followed intelligently the course of events during the last two years can have failed to be struck by the great danger with which this country has been threatened by the incursions and alarms of the French in those territories which were known to be under British protection. Nowhere in the world since the accession to power of the present Government have we been as near to war, I venture to assert, as we were over territorial questions in the vicinity of the Niger bend. I apprehend that I should be out of order if I were to try to trace these troubles to the graceful concessions that opened the door of Africa to the French as far inland as to Lake Chad, or to ask how the French came to be there. There they were, and, through their presence in those regions, they undoubtedly for a time became a great menace to the peace of the world. This great danger was due not, as has been contended, to imprudences or to action on the part of the Niger Company, but to the hostility of the French who in 1895 were formally advised of our Protectorate in the regions affected. But had we had Imperial representatives there instead of a mere company of traders, it is hardly conceivable that the French would have pushed their pretensions or their troops so far. But if the transfer of the administration of those territories was urgent before, it became, in my opinion, imperative when the Anglo-

French Convention was signed last year. If I recollect rightly, under that convention it was agreed to give to France two enclaves—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must not go into details. He can refer generally to the risk of disputes but must not review the history and effect of the convention.

*MR. HEDDERWICK: I was merely going to say that under those circumstances and upon other grounds which might be named, such as the creation of Imperial force upon the West African Frontier, it became essential on the part of the Government to take over these territories. That being so, the only question that remains is the price which the country is asked to pay the company for the consideration with which they part. Is the Government asking the country to pay too much? I should approach a question of that kind in no niggling spirit. We are taking over territory which has been administered by the company for some fifteen years. They have had all the difficulties to encounter. It is not the case of a company who have done nothing; their trade for the last seven years has averaged something like a million sterling. The Niger bend, as it is called, is one of the richest districts in the whole of Africa. Bearing these things in mind, I do not think that the sum named is exorbitant. If the Government had gone into the country fifteen years ago, and had endeavoured to obtain and administer the extensive territories in question, it would have cost the country a vastly greater sum than it will now have to expend. I will not further detain the House upon the merits of the matter, but I desire to point out that there is no schedule to the Bill. I think this is an omission of which we have reason to complain. Without a schedule it will be impossible for any hon. Member who thinks that any item should be reduced or deleted to move a reduction. I shall only add that if my honourable friends should press the question to a division I shall certainly support the Government upon the general policy.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): It seems to me that this is either a large political question or it is nothing at all. If it is a large political question we

cannot be too nice in the actual sum which we are to pay for taking over the government of this new province. We are buying the new province, and therefore you cannot haggle over small sums of money. I think, however, something can fairly be said about the terms on which we are to buy it. I do respectfully submit that the cost of the administration which we are going to substitute for the present administration ought to be a part of the bargain, and it cannot be kept out of that bargain. I think it is the business of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to say what he is going to do with the horse when he has bought it. In the Treasury Minute which sanctions this bargain it is stated that the Government will receive a royalty on the minerals. It may be said that, financially, this is a bad bargain, although the financial ground is not the one on which the question can be adequately dealt with. I notice that the cost will be something like £24,000 a year, and therefore we are going to pay the company £865,000 for the right of permanently paying £24,000 a year. That is practically what we are doing, and it may be a very good bargain. We paid millions under similar circumstances at the beginning of this century to the Russians, the Prussians, and the Austrians, and I do not think anyone will question that the money was well spent. In regard to Clause 3, it is provided that a certain shadow of a shade of a sum shall, under certain undefined circumstances, come back to us in alleviation of this sum which we are going to raise. I wish the House to understand that by this measure it is adding £850,000 to the National Debt. It is suggested that we shall get something from these territories, but what are we to get? It is something which entirely depends upon the mind of the Treasury which has the power of determining whether the receipts are in excess of the necessary expenditure, and the Treasury itself determines what the necessary expenses are to be. It is also provided that a certain sum shall be applied to the improvement of the Colony, and what sort of sum does the House imagine will be left when all these reservations have been met? Hitherto the cost of governing the place has been £24,000 a year, and do the Government suppose that it is going to cost them any less? In all probability it will be more, for possibly every

servant who was employed by the Niger Company, and who will become a servant of the Crown, will want an increase in wages, and I do not see how Her Majesty's Government are going to govern the territory cheaper than the company did. Consequently, I cannot imagine that there will be a farthing left to come back to the Exchequer, and my belief is that this sum of £865,000 will have to be made up by the British taxpayers, in addition to which you will have to find a permanent and increasing charge for the government of this new province which we have bought. That is undoubtedly what we must expect, and nothing else. My belief is that without haggling over the details of the bargain, and without going into the cost and value of so many pinnaces or so many steamers, the case has been very much overstated.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I understand that a question has been asked by the hon. Member for Poplar as to the future administration of the territories that we are about to take over. Perhaps with the permission of the House I may be permitted to say a few words upon that subject. It is intended, after all the negotiations are completed, that three Governments shall be formed — the Government of Lagos, the Government of Southern Nigeria, which will include the lower portion of the Niger Company's territories and the whole of the Coast Protectorate, and the third Government is that of Northern Nigeria. With regard to Lagos and Southern Nigeria, the present Governors will remain to administer the territories, and it is proposed to appoint Colonel Lugard Governor of Northern Nigeria, but at the same time the whole of the Customs duties of the three districts will be identical. There will be two coast districts, and no Customs barrier will exist between the coast districts and Northern Nigeria. The receipts of the Customs will be "pooled" and divided from time to time in proper proportions between the three administrations. We hope by making changes in the character and nature of the Customs, especially in regard to certain details, to remove obstacles which have hitherto stood in the way of trade, and we think that can be done without any additional expense. It is true that there

Mr. Gibson Boules.

will be a deficit in the first instance upon the total revenue and expenditure of the three Governments, but I do not think it will be a large one, even at first, and we have every reason to hope that with the increase of trade that deficit will disappear. At the present moment the returns from Lagos and the Niger Coast Protectorate are very satisfactory. The trade there is rapidly increasing, and we have no reason to doubt that when the monopoly of the Niger Company is abolished trade will very largely increase in their territory also. Of course, an immense deal will depend upon the extent to which we are able to improve communications. We are doing that already to a very considerable extent in Lagos, where a railway is making its way gradually from the Niger to the coast, and already that is having a very marked effect upon the course of trade. For myself, I believe that the whole of the trade which for centuries almost has come down from the north of Africa to Sokoto, Bornu, and to the other great markets, will ultimately come the shorter and more convenient way from the coast of Nigeria, and will therefore come largely into our hands; and although I do not want to be too sanguine in a matter of this kind, which is largely a subject of speculation, I do not think that even as a pecuniary bargain the country will have any reason to regret the change they are asked to assent to. I am asked how this will affect the regulations with regard to spirits. It is intended that the duty which has been recently raised shall be identical for the coast districts, and that so far as the northern district is concerned the sale of spirits shall be absolutely prohibited, and I have under consideration a series of Ordinances which will be passed for the coast districts and Northern Nigeria in order to secure the execution of that arrangement. Colonel Lugard has made a further proposal which I am inclined to regard very favourably. It is to make between Northern Nigeria and Southern Nigeria what I may call a neutral zone, in which, while spirits would be allowed to be sold, they would not be allowed to be stocked, and the effect of that would be that it would be almost impossible to carry spirits up into the northern district. If we can make that arrangement it will very materially assist our control of the trade, and, having regard to the very great

difficulty which exists in carrying what after all is rather a bulky product, we shall have no real difficulty in preventing spirits ascending beyond the point we desire. At the present moment, as the House is aware, we have just raised the duty on spirits by 50 per cent., and the duty on spirits in the territories of the Crown, including those of the Royal Niger Company, is now higher than in the adjoining territories of Dahomey and the German province. The duty is now uniform in the three territories. I do not, however, look upon the point at which it stands as necessarily the limit. I hope that from time to time it will be still further raised, but, of course, we have to be careful in raising it that we do not encourage smuggling from the adjoining provinces. We might perhaps reconcile ourselves to a very considerable reduction of the trade in spirits, but unfortunately that trade in spirits goes with trade in cottons and other manufactures, and if our traders were unable to supply the spirits to which the natives were accustomed they would lose their trade in other goods as well. Therefore, it is a matter which we have very carefully to consider, but as to which I think the House will agree that it would be unwise to proceed too rapidly in the direction in which we are going. I may say that, although the consumption of spirits is large—too large, I think, in this district—yet still it is very much less than it has been in past years. Considerable steps have been taken to reduce the consumption, although the territories themselves have greatly increased. I think the hon. Gentleman also raised a question with regard to slavery, and he pointed out that in the Niger Company's territories the legal status of slavery has been abolished. No doubt that was a most excellent arrangement, but at the same time I must point out that it is to a large extent a paper arrangement, because in a very large portion of this gigantic country of Sokoto and Bornu no white man has ever been, and nothing like the control has been established which would enable us to interfere in any way with such a matter, for instance, as domestic slavery. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that what is called domestic slavery exists, and has existed for many years, not only in such places as Sokoto and Bornu, but also in parts of India and in the hinter-

lands of all African colonies, and I think it would be absurd to give the House any impression that that can be totally or immediately changed. What we shall do, of course is to influence the customs of the country as far as that is possible, and, as our effective control extends, so also will extend our laws and arrangements with regard to slavery. In the meantime, what we are doing is something the effect of which can hardly be overestimated. We are destroying everywhere in our protectorates and in our spheres of influence, as well as in our territories, slave raiding, and it is slave raiding which has been the great curse of Africa. If at the present moment Africa is one of the least populated of continents, it is entirely because of the perpetual destruction of life and the insecurity both of life and property which have resulted from the process of slave raiding, which at one time was universal throughout the whole country. We have put a stop to that in many of our colonies; we are continually proceeding in that direction, and it will be one of our first duties to absolutely prohibit and prevent it in the lands of the Royal Niger Company, and in all territories over which we exercise control. I think that is all I have to say in answer to the hon. Gentleman.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): A statement has been made to-day, and has not been contradicted, that two years ago the shares of this company were worth only £10 in the market, but that in consequence of the knowledge of the exceedingly liberal arrangements come to with the Government the price has now risen to £20. We are now asked to sanction the payment of £850,000 to this company, but we have had no evidence during the ten or twelve years that the company has existed as to the income the expenditure of this £850,000 will bring to us as a trading concern. We are leaving them the most profitable part of their business. I wish to know what are the responsibilities of the company to the French Government, and whether the British Government will take over the responsibilities. I should also like to ask whether in all parts of the territory that is to be taken over absolute free trade will be given to the Liverpool merchants, and whether anything will be done to prevent the use of spirits as a

medium of exchange. While I am in favour of doing away with this and all other chartered companies, I think that as honest, straightforward business men we should only pay a reasonable price. I congratulate the Colonial Secretary on the measures he has taken in regard to the slave trade. He has very properly endeavoured to put down slave raiding, and I hope he will continue his efforts. I hope we are not going to hand this territory over to the control of the Foreign Office, which has acknowledged the legal status of slavery in East Africa. The Colonial Office in this matter has always exhibited a very much higher moral code than the Foreign Office.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: This Debate has continued for a considerable time, and many hon. Members have addressed the House, but I think their agreement about the principle of this Bill has been practically unanimous. I do not understand that even the hon. Member for Northampton considers that things should be left as they are, and that the Niger Company should be allowed to retain its charter. I think we are agreed that the charter must be revoked, that the company must be deprived of its administrative rights, and the full control of the government of this country set up in these territories in its place. And therefore the only question before the House as to which I need say anything is the price which is to be paid for the revocation of the charter. Now I think hon. Members are a little hard on me in that matter. It must be remembered that this, as has been stated in the course of the Debate, is an act of high policy. In 1886 this charter was granted, and, so far as I am able to judge, I think it was rightly granted at that time. It is now considered necessary, in the interests of the territories and of this country, that it should be revoked, and it is impossible that it can be revoked without considerable payments to the company that possesses it. By universal consent they have deserved well of their country. There can be no reasonable doubt whatever that, but for the work that they have done, the great artery of the Niger and the territories adjoining it would now not be in our hands, but in the hands either of Germany or of France. Therefore, in dealing with them, I entirely deprecate what I must refer to as the "higgling"

Mr. J. Chamberlain.

policy of the hon. Member for Poplar, who desires to go into all the minutiae of the payments which we are to make to the company, instead of dealing with them in that generous spirit which I think the House and the public desire.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I particularly said that I thought they deserved generous treatment; but I think the House is entitled to have an explanation in regard to certain sums proposed to be paid.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I am about to give that explanation, but I must say that the criticisms of the hon. Gentleman were not in accordance with his general statement. It must be remembered, also, that the company are by no means anxious that any change should be made. They have never asked for any change, and they would be better off from their point of view if they were allowed to continue in their present position. And therefore it is solely on the ground of public policy that I make the proposal to revoke this charter. The hon. Member for Northampton distrusts this company as well as any other company.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Not so much.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I am very glad he draws some distinction, but he went through the financial history of the company and asked me questions—which I do not complain of—on several points with regard to it. I must repudiate any responsibility for the balance-sheets of the company; it is not my duty to explain them, and I do not propose to attempt to do so. I have placed them before the House for consideration in common with the other papers. But when the hon. Member suggests that the capital of the company is watered capital I must say that in my judgment he is entirely wrong. No doubt the Royal Niger Company has amalgamated with other companies and traders on the Niger, and it has paid them for their assets in shares of the company, as it naturally would have done. But I am informed that those assets were valuable assets, and in many cases cash assets. Then of course traders established on the river had a goodwill which was valuable, and for which it was right that they should be paid. The company must have profited largely by amalgamating with it these other traders. Then the hon. Member refers to the debt of the

Royal Niger territory. Now the history of that debt is shortly this—the National African Company prior to the issue of the charter paid very considerably more than £250,000 for acquiring political rights for this country in getting rid of the French interests pushed into the lower Niger at various times, and in maintaining order on the Niger during the interval between the Conference of Berlin and the issue of the charter in 1886—that is, before any Customs duties could be levied in order to pay the expenses of administration. Well, of the amount so spent the National African Company found £117,000 out of its capital, and the remainder out of the accumulated profits, the reserve fund, and the revenue account generally, including private loans from individuals. Before the charter was granted it was arranged that the amount so spent should be repaid provided the annual charge should not exceed £12,500 a year on the revenue of the Niger territory, and it was subsequently arranged that this should be capitalised as £250,000 at 5 per cent. per annum. The Crown Agents for the Colonies at the time were directed by the Government of the day carefully to investigate the accounts of the company, and after the expenditure of £250,000 had been proved they stopped, although the company protested that they had spent a great deal more than that sum. Therefore this debt on the Niger territory of £12,500 a year, or £250,000, was really paid over to individuals and to the National African Company to recompense them for expenditure incurred for the purposes I have described before the issue of the charter, and, in fact, it is so alluded to in the charter itself. I hope that the hon. Member will see that this is really payment made after full investigation by the Government of the day for actual cash expended, and that in taking over the administration of the territory it was practically impossible that the Government should do anything else than take over the debt charged, according to the charter, on the revenue of those territories.

MR. LABOUCHERE: But there is the 30 per cent. bonus, or whatever you choose to call it. There is a Member of this House who took a small number of shares in the Niger Company and who received, without having made any payment in respect of it, 30 per cent. on the value of

his shares. I cannot understand that, and I should like an explanation.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I assume that the individual in question must have purchased those shares from some previous holder. That previous holder had unquestionably expended, out of capital previously raised, whatever the amount may have been in respect of this grant, and therefore the holder who purchased these shares was entitled to be recouped for that expenditure. Then the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool, I think, commented unfavourably on the treaties made by the company excluding foreigners from the territories made over to them. Well, I am informed that those treaties were made by the National African Company before the grant of the charter, and obviously any provision contrary to the terms of the charter in those treaties could not have been acted upon by the Company. Then the price of £150,000 proposed to be paid for the land and mineral rights of the company has been referred to. On that I would say that these land rights are an essential part of the bargain we are making with the company; they extend over something like 320,000 acres, or 500 square miles, in a narrow strip of land, nowhere, I think, exceeding 2,000 yards wide, along the banks of the Niger for very many miles. It is, as I believe, the only land suitable at the present moment, and until the country is very much further developed, for utilisation for trading stations or plantations by any person desiring to settle in the country. By acquiring those land rights the company, of course, was able, practically, largely to shut out any other traders or competitors from coming on the Niger, except on such terms as they were disposed to make. When we obtain possession of those land rights, with which it will be open to the Government of the country to deal, I expect a very considerable profit from persons desiring to settle along the Niger for purposes of trade or plantation. Then in this item is included to some extent the purchase of mineral rights acquired by the company under treaty, most of which were acquired before the grant of the charter. It has been questioned whether we have been right in proposing to allow the company not merely a certain portion of this £150,000 as the price of these mineral

rights, but also half the royalties which may be levied in a certain portion of these territories in future. I must ask the House to remember that this whole matter has been the result of long negotiations between myself, aided by Sir Francis Mowatt, who has done excellent work for the country in this connection, and by Colonel Lugard, and by officials of the Foreign Office on one side, and Sir George Goldie on the other. Sir George Goldie's opinion of the value of the mineral rights was, when we began those negotiations, something immense; he put them down at a million, if I remember, on one occasion. I demurred altogether to that view, for I considered that as very little was known about the minerals in these regions at the present time it was absolutely impossible for anyone to say what they might be really worth. The proper way to deal with them, at any rate to a considerable extent, was that they should be tested by future results, and that a royalty should therefore be paid. That was the reason for that proposal, because it was absolutely impossible to arrive at any fair settlement in any other way. I want the House to consider my position in this matter. We have done what we believe to be a great act of public policy in buying up this company against their will, and it would have been wrong for us to deal with them as if they had committed some crime, which they seem to have done in the eyes of the hon. Member for Northampton, or to have dealt with them in any way but by means of a friendly bargain. That is the only way in which the matter could be fairly approached.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY: Did the right hon. Gentleman take the opinion of any mining experts before settling the price?

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: No mining experts can test the value of mineral rights in a country which is largely unexplored. The hon. Member for Poplar and other hon. Members have laid great stress on the proposal to pay the company £300,000 for expenditure for various objects beyond ordinary administrative work. I would ask the House to remember with regard to that that the company had to do a very considerable amount of extra work in maintaining against French and German explorers, backed by their

own countries, rights for Great Britain in these regions, and with that object it was compelled to maintain a force of police, a large number of officials, more steamers to patrol the waters of the Niger, and matters of that kind, which would not have been in any degree necessary if it had merely to do with the natives in the territories entrusted to its care, or with the levying of the Customs duties. But it has been said that we are paying the company a considerable sum for which we get nothing; indeed, less than nothing, because we are really relieving them of what has been a burden. I do not think hon. Members who say that have fairly considered the position which the company has acquired under its charter. It is not my duty to defend those who drew up that charter; neither side of the House can claim a special responsibility for it; it was the work, in fact, of both political parties. But it is a simple fact that the powers granted by the charter were so extensive, and its language so wide, that under it the company have been able to acquire the practical monopoly of trade, although in one clause of the charter a monopoly of trade was absolutely forbidden, and although freedom of trade on the Niger was established by the Treaty of Berlin. When the Foreign Office endeavoured to bring the regulations of the company into more harmony with the freedom of trade under the Treaty of Berlin, and consulted the law officers as to whether the acts of the company were within the charter or not, the answer they got was that the charter allowed the company to do everything that it had done. Therefore I think the House will see that we have been placed in this position. It is necessary that trade should be free on the Niger. By the powers of administration, as well as of trading, which the charter gave to the company in the region entrusted to it, it has been able to carry out certain bargains with regard to the acquirement of land rights, to make certain regulations with regard to licences to trade, and the places at which vessels might land along the course of the Niger, which have practically given it this trade monopoly, and if the charter is to be revoked under which this monopoly has been acquired it is impossible but that the company must be paid for losing advantages which, in my opinion, are due to a mistake in the original wording of the charter.

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It must be remembered that the position of the company will be totally changed after the revocation of the charter. The hon. Member who spoke last seemed to assume that the company would still be in a position to enjoy a practical monopoly of trade, that this, in fact, would not be diminished, but that is far from being the case. No doubt the company will hold a strong position as already occupying the ground, but they will in future be entitled to no advantage beyond that which their position, their trading stations, and their existing wharves on the Niger give them, and we shall hope to introduce other traders into their territory in competition with the company, and I can assure the House that, by the arrangements we now ask Parliament to sanction, real freedom of trade will be introduced into the territory. The hon. Member for Gateshead has criticised some of the prices which appear in the schedule for some of the plant of the company which we proposed to acquire. I should say that the company were by no means desirous to part with this, but I think the House will agree, and the hon. Member for Poplar has admitted, it is absolutely necessary to take over as much of the administrative plant as is required. The plant is on the spot, it has been used for administrative purposes, and it will be infinitely cheaper to buy it from the company than to purchase it here and send it out from England. The hon. Member for Gateshead has criticised the price proposed to be given for certain boats and hulks in connection with administrative work, and though I do not pretend to set myself against the hon. Member as an authority on the value of these things, I can assure him that the schedule has been most carefully gone into by gentlemen who know these particular boats and hulks—for instance, by Colonel Lugard—who have had experience of administration in these regions, and know the cost of purchasing similar plant and sending it out from England. The hulks are not the rotten old steamers to which the hon. Member contemptuously refers. They are sailing vessels built for the purpose for which they were used on the Niger, when it was necessary to have administrative stations in unhealthy places, as residences for the staff instead of houses. For a like purpose they will be used in the

future, and they will, I believe, last for many years. I am quite sure we should have to pay a much larger sum if we replaced these vessels instead of purchasing them from the Royal Niger Company. My hon. friend the Member for Pembroke found fault with the proposal to make a charge on the revenue of the future in regard to the sum we now propose to raise, and said we ought not to charge this as a debt on the revenue of the colony, but should allow the colony to raise it with a Government guarantee. Well, that is a financial matter upon which I do not now want to dwell, but in my opinion it is infinitely better and more economical to advance the sum in the manner proposed by the Bill than to allow the amount to be raised by the territory under Government guarantee. Though I quite admit the provisions in the Bill as to the repayment of the money are somewhat vague, and necessarily must be so, yet in my judgment it would be a grave mistake to advance the money without indicating in the Act of Parliament the intention that the territory should repay the advance when in a position to do so. I believe—and it is the belief of the Government, as it is of many Members who have spoken—that trade will so largely increase in the future that it will not be many years before the territory will be in a position to find from its own revenue not only its own administrative expenses, like Lagos and the Niger Coast Protectorate, but also be in a position to repay by instalments the money now advanced for buying out the company. I think I have alluded to all the points raised, and I hope that, seeing that the criticisms have been on points of detail which may if necessary be raised again, the House will now give a Second Reading to the Bill, upon the principle of which we are all agreed.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar) : May I ask one question ? It is in relation to the statement made by the Colonial Secretary. In the first place, with regard to the importation of liquor, I understand the importation of liquor will in future only be stopped by the delimitation of the neutral zone, and the importation would not be illegal.

***SIR M. HICKS-BEACH** : Beyond that zone.

Sir M. Hicks-Beach.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR : Beyond that zone it would still be illegal ?

***SIR M. HICKS-BEACH** : Yes.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR : Then in regard to the status of slavery. I understood the Colonial Secretary to say that whereas in the Niger Company's territory the status of slavery has been abolished, now that that territory will become a portion of the larger territory the abolition of the legal status will not be extended, and that we should have to trust to more gradual methods of reducing the amount of slavery in the larger territory. This seems to be a retrogressive policy.

***SIR M. HICKS-BEACH** : I can hardly answer a question as to the future policy of the Colonial Office with regard to slavery. My right hon. friend has already made a statement on the subject, and if the hon. Member will look at the report of my right hon. friend's speech to-morrow, and finds anything requiring elucidation, perhaps he will put a question to the Colonial Secretary.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed for to-morrow.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Another Amendment made.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton) : I beg to move to omit Clause 7. It proposes to treat a perfectly legitimate industry in this country in a most stringent and oppressive manner which is altogether exceptional and unprecedented. There is a phrase in a letter published this morning from Esterhazy, which is singularly appropriate to the treatment which this Bill proposes to mete out to the margarine manufacturers of this country. He referred to "a bill of exchange drawn against the moral culpability of Dreyfus," and that is perfectly appropriate to the present proposal of the Government with reference to the margarine manufacturers. No proof has been alleged that the adulteration and misrepresentation which take place in connection with the sale of margarine are perpetrated by the manufacturers. This clause proposes nevertheless that the manufacturers shall be placed under altogether exceptional regulations, which are in many respects

inquisitorial, and calculated to destroy an industry of great importance, and to drive it out of the country altogether. If this clause is passed will it be of any real use? The foreign manufacturer will be able to send butter adulterated with margarine in spite of every precaution you can take. The manufacture of margarine is a competing industry with that of butter, but butter manufacturers are not to be subjected to the same restrictions. The hon. Member for South Molton looks at me with an angry eye. He told us he represented an honest agricultural industry, and I have no doubt as far as his constituents are concerned any attempt at fraud would be out of the question. But all agricultural Members are not so fortunate in their constituents, and I venture to say that among butter manufacturers and dairy farmers in other parts of the country advantage will be taken of the non-inspection of butter factories as compared with the stringent inspection of margarine factories to transfer the lucrative trade of butter mixed with margarine to another quarter. There is no proof whatever that adulteration takes place in the margarine factories. Everything points to exactly the contrary. The people who buy margarine from the manufacturers know what they are about. They will not give butter prices for margarine. They know exactly the value of the different brands, and on their part I have never heard even a whisper of an allegation of any fraudulent adulteration taking place in these factories. If that be the case, why should you expose these manufacturers to inquisitorial inquiries and exceptional restrictions from which their foreign competitors are free? You do not propose to impose them on their home competitors in the butter trade, and the result will be that you will be fostering an unfair competition, and will be crushing out a very important and valuable industry. For these reasons it appears to me that this clause should be omitted from the Bill. Foreign manufacturers of margarine will eagerly welcome it, but home manufacturers protest against it most vigorously as an imputation on their honesty, and, as a matter of fact, it is absolutely uncalled for.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, line 29, to leave out Clause 7.”—
(Sir Charles Cameron.)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out to the word ‘and,’ in line 30, stand part of the Bill.”

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): The hon. Baronet recommends the omission of this clause on two grounds. One is, that it will expose margarine manufacturers to a very unfair and inquisitorial system of inspection. That may be the view of the hon. Baronet himself, but it is not the view of the recognised association which exists for the purpose of maintaining the rights of margarine manufacturers. I am able to quote from a letter from the Margarine Defence Association which considered this clause in the original Bill which was introduced in a previous Session. The letter, which is addressed to the Local Government Board, the President of which Department had charge of the Measure, states:—

“With reference to the proposed registration of margarine manufacturers, the Association believes that a law to that effect would prove effective in the suppression of fraud.”

They do not suggest that this inspection would be inquisitorial or injurious to their trade, and I confess I have great difficulty in understanding why they should advance a view of that kind. If it is to be assumed, as I think it is, that they conduct their business in an honest manner they have nothing whatever to fear from Government inspection. If, on the other hand, they are guilty of practices which would bring them within the law, I think a great deal is to be said for the view repeatedly advanced by hon. Gentlemen opposite in support of an Amendment which I was unable to accept, that we should not devote all our energies to the detection of fraud on the part of the retailer, but that we should where possible get at the wholesale dealer, who has been described by the hon. Member for Dundee as “the great rogue” in this matter. I do not adopt the hon. Member’s language, but if there is a comparison in roguery, and if the view of the hon. Baronet be adopted, then the greater rogue would be allowed to escape. I think there is abundant justification for making these factories subject to proper inspection, and, if their business is carried on according to law, they will have nothing whatever to

fear; on the contrary, the fact that the public will know that the premises are open to inspection by a Government Department will give them a sort of certificate, which will be the best advertisement they can possibly desire. I submit to the House that there is no justification whatever on the grounds proposed by the hon. Baronet or on any other grounds for rejecting this clause. As is perfectly well known, the power given by the clause will be used by the Government Department in a fair and legitimate manner, from which the persons carrying on the industry will have nothing to fear.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): I have not been convinced by anything the right hon. Gentleman has said as to the necessity for this clause. In the past, inspection and restriction of this kind have been limited to dangerous trades, such as the manufacture of gunpowder and dynamite, or to industries where inspection was necessary for excise purposes. The manufacture of margarine is not a dangerous trade. Margarine is an ordinary wholesome food, and you are now going to apply to its manufacture principles which have been applied hitherto only to the manufacture of dangerous substances. Why should not ordinary factory inspection be sufficient, as in the case of butter factories? Why should margarine manufacturers be placed at a disadvantage as compared with butter manufacturers? There is just as much reason for inspection in the one case as in the other, except so far as it would affect British agriculture. I can understand the inspection of lodging-houses on grounds of public health, but none of these grounds are applicable to margarine factories. You are giving the right to inspect every process of manufacture, although it is well known that some of these processes are secret, and it is possible that an inspector may get information under this clause which he could sell to a rival manufacturer. The only justification that can be urged is that there is fraud in selling margarine for butter; but under the Margarine Act, if a man sells butter with 1 per cent. of margarine he commits an offence. The law at present is quite stringent enough. This Bill is a sop to the farmers to make them think they are getting something. It will not, however, affect the consumption of margarine or the price of butter, although margarine

manufacturers may be fined £20 or £50 because something in their factories is not quite in accordance with the provisions of this clause. The Government are determined to carry the clause, but if the hon. Baronet divides against it I will support him.

*SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): My chief objection to this clause is that without any proved or even alleged necessity it is introduced for the harassment of an important industry. On behalf of the manufacturers generally there is a feeling that inspection is being carried to an altogether unnecessary extent, and that there is danger of being inspected to death. The offences provided under this clause are failing to keep a register or to keep it posted up, or to produce it when required by an officer of the Board, or to make a false entry, or to omit to enter something which ought to have been entered. This is a slur on the manufacturers that they have done nothing to warrant or justify. I object altogether to their being singled out in this way for this special inspection, and for this new offence being created. I adhere to the opinion that it is desirable to get at the wholesale rogue, if such a rogue exists; but it has not been shown that our home manufacturers of margarine are such rogues, and on their behalf I protest against this clause.

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL (Stockton): I think there ought to be a compromise in this matter. I quite agree with the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill that in the case of manufacturers there ought to be an inspector with the power of inspecting the premises, and also of inspecting the articles put into the margarine. But I do think that the right hon. Gentleman is introducing an evil system into the trade of the country in giving power to an inspector to go into the premises of wholesale dealers and pry into their business.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, South): I entertain considerable doubt as to the expediency of this clause. It is a new and very doubtful departure in our legislation. The principles on which inspection has been conducted hitherto do not apply to a case of this kind. The principles of inspection of manufactures hitherto sanctioned by legislation are of three classes..

Mr. Long.

There are the cases in which inspection is necessary where you want to levy an excise. Then there are the cases where public health is involved, and therefore the inspector goes into the premises in order to see that the persons employed therein have proper accommodation, and that the dangers to which they are exposed are minimised and reduced. And, third, there is the law regulating the manufacture of dynamite and other explosives, where public safety is involved. These are the only cases in which such inspection and such a register as is contemplated by this Bill are now required by legislation. There is only one of two grounds for the supervision of the manufacture of this article: either to prevent fraud—but for that there are ample provisions in other parts of the Bill—or to ensure the interest of agriculture, that is to say, to prevent competition; in other words, to do something more or less protective in the interest of the agricultural producer. That is a new and dangerous principle, and we should enter our protest against this kind of legislation.

THE SOLICITOR - GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I do not think that my right hon. friend has given sufficient reasons for striking out this clause. I would remind the House that in all the particular instances which the right hon. Gentleman gave of inspection being permissible it was where it was needed for the public good. Now, the manufacture of margarine may be a perfectly legitimate industry, and it is not interfered with by this Bill. But we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that a great deal of margarine is sold as butter, and it is a proper thing that, in the interest of the public consumer, a check should be put to such practices. I would call the attention of the House to what the scope of the clause is, and which I think the hon. Gentleman strangely misunderstood. It provides that the occupier of a manufactory of margarine, and every wholesale dealer in margarine, shall keep a register showing what is sent out from the manufactory or place of business, and this register will be open to the inspection of an officer of the Board of Agriculture. The object of that is clear: if you find a man who professes to deal in butter getting regular consignments of mar-

garine, the inference is not very far off that he is selling margarine for butter. The whole object of the clause is to trace the article to the manufacturer. I protest most strongly against the right hon. Gentleman when he speaks of this as a Protectionist measure in the interest of agriculture. Surely, when an endeavour is made to check the sale of margarine for butter, it is not to be called Protection. Every man has a right to be protected in honest industry, and the public have a right to be protected against fraud. This is a Protectionist measure in that sense, but in no other.

MR. WALLACE (Perth): How is it proposed to deal with the margarine manufactured and imported from abroad?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: Provision is made in the first clause that margarine imported from abroad should be clearly marked.

MR. WALLACE: Why not apply the same principle in regard to the home manufactured margarine? If it were so plainly marked it could be traced to the manufacturer. I object to the clause because it extends the principle of inspection to the manufacture of that which the right hon. gentleman admits is a perfectly healthy food. I cannot see why inspection is necessary in the case of margarine unless it is pretended that there is something obnoxious in itself in margarine.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I hope, my hon. friend will divide on this clause. I regard it as an extremely inquisitorial and offensive provision, and I do not see why it should not be extended to the manufacture of almost any article of consumption which is produced in this country. I confess that I do not think the hon. and learned Solicitor-General gave any answer whatever to the argument of my right hon. friend the Member for South Aberdeen. I do not see how the inspection of a manufactory of margarine, and enforcing the keeping of this register, can possibly enable you to reach the retailer who fraudulently sells margarine for butter to a customer. It seems to me that the whole object and tenor of this clause is to extinguish the manufacture of margarine altogether in this country. That would be very hard upon the labouring man and his family.

who are very glad to get good margarine at 6d. per lb. instead of second-rate butter at 1s. 2d. per lb.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire) : It has been forgotten throughout the whole of this discussion that, while a very large portion of the margarine used in this country is imported from abroad, a large margarine manufacturing industry will no doubt grow up in this country if the demand for this article continues. We all share the Solicitor General's desire to encourage, as far as possible, honest and fair methods of dealing ; but we are bound to look at the disadvantages of such legislation, and weigh them against the advantages. I maintain that this is a very harassing clause, and that it is open to the greatest possible objection. One portion of it, the second paragraph, was introduced against the wishes of the Government themselves, after the First Reading. If the premises where the margarine is kept are to be inspected, why not extend the inspection to butchers' shops to see where the foreign meat came from ; and why not to bakers' shops to see whether the bread is baked from foreign flour or from home flour ? It is said that the clause has been put forward in behalf of the consumer ; but in my humble opinion, if the consumers had been consulted, this Bill would never have been brought forward at all. It is a veiled form of Protection.

***MR. LONG** : I would point out that the recognised leaders of those who hold Protectionists views have repudiated the greater part of the Bill, because they hold it is absolutely useless, and that it does not go the length of Protection.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR : I agree that they oppose it, because they do not think it goes far enough. I think the House should look at the disadvantages of this harassing and vexatious interference with trade. If I were an enemy of the Government I would wish no better than that they should press this harassing and vexatious clause, but I hope they will reconsider their attitude in regard to it.

SIR F. S. POWELL (Wigan) : I have a difficulty in regard to this clause. What I want to know from the right

Mr. Hemphill.

hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill is whether the officer of the Board of Agriculture who makes the inspection is to consider the information he receives or obtains is entirely confidential.

***MR. LONG** : In this case, as in all other cases where Government inspection is carried out, every information is regarded as strictly confidential.

***MR. STEADMAN** (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) : Several Members have got up and accused the Government of trying to introduce Protection into this country. I fail to see where the Protection comes in. I am a Free Trader myself, but if a Bill brought into the House of Commons is going to protect my class against unscrupulous and unjust dealers, wholesale and retail, and manufacturers of articles, I am going to support it, for that is Protection on the right lines. I should like to draw hon. Members' attention to the second line in this clause. Every wholesale dealer who purchases margarine manufactured in Holland, or anywhere on the Continent, has always had an eye on business, and he will take particular care that he purchases the right article, for he knows that if he does not he will be held responsible. It is said you are harassing trade by this Bill. There are thousands of working men who have saved a few pounds, and who take chandlers' shops, but they find themselves no better off than the mechanic because they are being harassed every day, while the grand culprit who sells wholesale is allowed to go scot-free. Any medical officer of health can go into a shop and purchase a sample, and the poor retail man is prosecuted, although he has nothing to do with the adulteration ; he has not got the common sense to adulterate the article. The man who is to blame is the man who sells him the article, and that is the man we have got to go for—to strike a blow at the fountain-head.

MR. ABEL THOMAS (Carmarthenshire, E.) : This Bill can hurt no honest dealer. He ought to know where the articles he sells come from. If a man got into the Bankruptcy Court the judge would be very much astonished if the bankrupt said he could not say where he got his goods.

from. I cannot see what possible objection there can be to an honest manufacturer allowing an inspector to go over his premises at any and at all times. I fail entirely to see any Protection in this clause. The result of the whole Bill will be that people will buy a good deal more margarine than now. I trust we shall

now go to a Division, and I shall support the clause.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 216; Noes, 61. (Division List, No. 283.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Drucker, A.	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas	Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverp'l)
Arrol, Sir William	Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)	Lowe, Francis William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Evershed, Sydney	Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Fardell, Sir T. George	Lucas-Shadwell, William
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward	Macaleese, Daniel
Baillie, J. E. B. (Inverness)	Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Man's)	Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Baird, John George Alexander	Finch, George H.	Maclare, Sir John William
Balcarres, Lord	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	M'Crae, George
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man.)	Fisher, William Hayes	M'Killop, James
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Fison, Frederick William	Maddison, Fred.
Banbury, Frederick George	Flannery, Sir Fortescue	Malcolm, Ian
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Flower, Ernest	Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. S. (Hunts)	Flynn, James Christopher	Melville, Beresford Valentine
Bartley, George C. T.	Fox, Dr. Joseph Francis	Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Fry, Lewis	Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.	Galloway, William Johnson	Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)	Garfit, William	Milner, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bris.)	Gedge, Sydney	Monk, Charles James
Beckett, Ernest William	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.	Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.	More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Bill, Charles	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Morgan, Hon. F. (Monmouthsh.)
Birrell, Augustine	Gordon, Hon. Edward	Morrison, Walter
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Boocawen, Arthur Griffith-	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo's)	Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Myers, William Henry
Burns, John	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Cameron, Robert (Durham)	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Carlile, William Walter	Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)	Northcote, Hon. Sir H. S.
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-	Gretton, John	O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Gull, Sir Cameron	O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Cayzer, Sir C. William	Gunter, Colonel	Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Halsey, Thomas Frederick	Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.	Percy, Earl
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)	Hanson, Sir Reginald	Perks, Robert William
Channing, Francis Allston	Harwood, George	Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Heaton, John Henniker	Pirie, Duncan V.
Chelsea, Viscount	Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.	Helder, Augustus	Power, Patrick Joseph
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter	Price, Robert John
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Hill, Arthur (Down, West)	Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready	Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)	Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole	Hoare, Edw. B. (Hampstead)	Purvis, Robert
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)	Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)	Randell, David
Courtney, Rt. Hon. L. H.	Hornby, Sir William Henry	Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Howard, Joseph	Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Howell, William Tudor	Royds, Clement Molyneux
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil	Runciman, Walter
Curzon, Viscount	Hudson, George Bickersteth	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh	Johnston, William (Belfast)	Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Dalkeith, Earl of	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William	Schwann, Charles E.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Lafone, Alfred	Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Denny, Colonel	Lambert, George	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Dillon, John	Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)	Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Donelan, Captain A.	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Donkin, Richard Sim	Leighton, Stanley	Spencer, Ernest
Doggan, P. C.	Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)	Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Doughty, George	Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'ns'a)	Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)

Stanley, Sir Henry M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stock, James Henry
 Strachey, Edward
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxfd Uni.)
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips

Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whiteley, H. (Aston-under-L.)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Woods, Samuel

Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Young, S. (Cavan, East)
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, William (Gateshead)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Asher, Alexander
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Cawley, Frederick
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Crilly, Daniel
 Crombie, John William
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles

Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Hazell, Walter
 Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
 Kitson, Sir James
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lyell, Sir Leonard
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Richardson, J. (Durham, S.E.)

Roberts, J. H. (Denbighs.)
 Samuel, J. (Stockton on Tees)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Charles Cameron and Sir John Leng.

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL, in the absence of the hon. Member for Devonport (Mr. Kearley), moved an Amendment to omit the words, "and every wholesale dealer in such substances." He hoped to be able to show the House that that part of the clause was no protection whatever to the public. He agreed with the previous part of the clause that inspectors should have power to visit factories for the purpose of inspection, but the object of the Amendment was to leave out the provision that the inspector appointed by the Board of Agriculture should have the right to go into every wholesale place, and see whether every package was marked and included in the register of sales. This he regarded as most important, because under the clause as it stood the wholesale dealer would not only have to keep a day-book, but if a customer came in and wanted a 7 lbs. packet of margarine he would be bound to enter it in his day-book, give a separate invoice, and keep an extract from his day-book in a separate register for the inspection of the inspector when the latter came

round. That would afford no protection to the public, for this reason. An inspector might go into a factory and see that the margarine had been sent to the wholesale dealer; then he might go to the wholesale dealer and find that the margarine had been sold to the retailer, who distributed thousands of packages, perhaps, to hundreds of customers. But it would be impossible for the inspector to follow the margarine to the retailers, because before he could cover the ground the retailer would have sold it to the consumer, and thus it would be put out of the power of the inspector to inspect. He (Mr. Samuel) was a strong believer in putting down fraud, but he was strongly of opinion that the only way whereby they could put down fraud in the sale of margarine was by making the retail dealer responsible. There was no margarine imported into this country as butter; it was all marked as margarine and sent as such to the wholesale dealers. If there were fraud it was committed by the retailers, and the only way to put it down was to make the retailer feel that the inspector for the local

authority could at any time walk into his shop and see whether or not he was carrying out the law under which he should mark margarine as such. The wholesale dealer had nothing whatever to do with that part of the matter; but the part of the clause now proposed to be omitted would harass to a great extent the wholesale dealers, by imposing upon them an enormous amount of work without any justification whatever, and without affording the public any protection. If the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would either give extra powers to local authorities, or insist on their carrying out their powers, that part of the clause would not be required. The County Council of Durham did carry out the law at the present time, and insisted on their inspectors visiting the whole of the retail shops in the city, with the result that last year they took 393 samples of food for analysis and only ten were found to be adulterated; and of seventy-three samples of butter only one was adulterated. In fact, in this country the adulteration was in milk, spirits, and drugs, and if local authorities carried out the existing law this Bill would not be required, because the evils complained of could be stamped out by visitation of the retail shops. But while anxious to secure the greater protection of the public, he did not think power should be given to inspectors to harass men innocent of any fraud on the public, and for that reason he moved the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 30, to leave out the words 'and every wholesale dealer in such substances.'"—(Mr Jonathan Samuel.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

*MR. LONG: I hope the hon. Member will not persist in this Amendment, because he has really misapprehended the object of this clause. It is not intended, as I think hon. Gentlemen who took part in the proceedings upstairs will admit, to inflict anything in the nature of a persecution upon either wholesale dealers or manufacturers or retail dealers. It is only proposed to confer certain powers upon inspectors in regard to the detection and punishment of fraud, and we honestly

desire to set about that work, so far as the Government officers are concerned, with the least possible friction and the minimum of inconvenience. The House has already decided that the earlier part of the section in regard to registration shall remain in the Bill, and the addition of these words is essential in order that we should have control over the sale of foreign margarine as well as over that manufactured at home. This is particularly necessary when we remember that foreign margarine only finds its way to the consumer through the wholesaler. I think the House will agree that if it is necessary—and I am sure it is necessary—that the Department should have power of this kind with regard to margarine manufacturers at home, it is only fair play that they should have equal power to deal with imported margarine, which finds its way to the retail dealer only through the wholesale dealer. If these words are omitted we should lose all control over margarine manufactured abroad.

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL: But hundreds of tons of margarine find their way to the retailers without going through the hands of the wholesale dealers.

*MR. LONG: I do not pretend for a moment that we cover all the ground, but I do not think it could be argued that because we do not occupy all the ground, we should not occupy as much as we possibly can. I think it is quite clear that there is no likelihood of these powers, being exercised in any way tyrannical or oppressive to the manufacturers. These places are constantly inspected for various purposes at the present time, and I venture to say that there exists the best possible feeling between the parties concerned. I do not therefore think there need be the smallest apprehension as to the result of this clause.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 35, to leave out Sub-section 2 of Clause 7."—(Captain Sinclair.)

Question proposed, "That Sub-section 2 of Clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to move the omission of Clause 8. This clause is the crux of the Bill; it is by far the most important, and is, indeed, the most obnoxious clause in the whole Bill. It is so obnoxious and so detrimental to the interests of the community that its inclusion in the Bill is sufficient to damn the whole measure. What is this clause for? It is a clause to rob the poor man of his butter. I hold in my hand copies of invitations for tenders for various articles of food from the Metropolitan Asylums Board, the Asylums Committee of the London County Council, the Chelsea Workhouse, the Kensington Workhouse, and from half a dozen other poorhouse authorities, all asking for tenders for margarine. But what sort of margarine? Margarine containing at least twenty per cent. of butter. And why do they ask for that? They think margarine is improved by a certain amount of butter, and that that justifies them to an extent in giving 16s. per cwt. more than they would otherwise have to pay. This clause is against mixtures altogether, and it will deprive the inmates of all London workhouses and other institutions of any chance of having butter mixed with their margarine. I am as opposed to fraud as anyone in this House, and I wish to stop adulteration, and I think it will be admitted that the Amendments made in this Bill at my instance have enormously strengthened it in that particular. But margarine has already been dealt with so exceptionally; while it is lawful to sell any other product so long as you call it a mixture, it is only a mixture of butter and margarine that it is unlawful to sell unless you call it margarine. The alternative which I advocate, and which I am justified in advocating here, is to put margarine mixtures on the same footing as other mixtures, and allow it to be sold as a mixture provided the requirements of the Act of Parliament have been all complied with. We are told that this clause is a compromise. This clause proposes to render criminal the individual who has in his possession margarine which contains more than 10 per cent of butter fats. Since this Bill was introduced the right hon. Gentleman has increased his restrictions, because when it was first introduced he said it should not contain more than 10 per cent. of butter, but by the change of phraseology he has reduced

the butter to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The right hon. Gentleman must remember that this is not a question of butter being added to margarine. The oleine which is derived from the fat parts, best fat, of cattle is melted down and is then put into a warm churn together with a certain amount of milk or cream, and when it has been thoroughly churned and well mixed and has taken up the butter fat, it is run off against a stream of icy cold water which congeals the fat into butter—like particles. The water is then extracted from them and they are formed into a butter-like mass. In making mixtures the margarine manufacturer does not take a mass of butter and a mass of margarine; what is done is to put a greater amount of cream or milk into the churn with the oleine. Now this mixture is to be prohibited altogether. The right hon. Gentleman prohibits the sale of any margarine with more than 10 per cent. of butter fats; but has he gone high enough? I have a document here from a Scotch margarine factory, in which it is stated that the margarine coming from this factory shows $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of butter fat. Unless we wish to prohibit the manufacture of margarine except with the poorest milk, and so cripple the farmers as well as the manufacturers, because they will not have the market for their milk which they have at the present time, the House will reject this clause. One public authority that has approached this House is dead against this clause. The Committee of the Glasgow Corporation reported against Clause 8, and the co-operative societies of Scotland, representing nearly a quarter of a million men, state that they have read the communication of the Glasgow Corporation, and entirely approve of it. Having regard to the fact that if this clause was deleted the Bill would be just as effective, one cannot help coming to the conclusion that this clause is put in for no other purpose than to aim a blow at a trade which competes with the butter-producing industry. Such a course will not help the farmer; the margarine industry has brought three quarters of a million per annum into the pockets of the stock breeders of this country. In regard to milk, Holland is one of the greatest centres of the margarine trade, and there the price of skim milk has materially increased. What is the butter industry of this country? Two out of every three tons of the butter which is consumed here

comes from abroad. If the right hon. Gentleman's method does succeed in raising the price of butter, it will be the foreigner and not the British who will be benefited. Under all these circumstances I beg to move the Amendment which stands in my name, which is to leave out Clause 8.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 16, to leave out Clause 8."
—(Sir Charles Cameron.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'ten,' in line 17, stand part of the Bill."

*MR. LONG: The hon. Baronet who addressed the House has entirely failed to appreciate the argument that I and others used to support the Government policy with regard to this clause. It has been held that in the case of margarine where the percentage of butter is very large, the opportunity for fraud on the part of the seller is very great, because it is so difficult for the consumer to find out whether he has got what he wants. I have no desire whatever to put an argument of this kind before the House in any other form than that in which it presents itself to me. I admit that I dislike this kind of legislation as much as anybody else, but the difficulty I have to consider when I come to deal with this question is that there has been for a very long time great dissatisfaction at the frauds which have been committed by the sellers of margarine for butter all over the country. It was this that led to the appointment of the Committee upon this question. That inquiry, in great part, was turned to the question of adulteration, and the Committee recommended not that there should be any limitation, but that there should be an absolute prohibition against the mixing of butter with margarine. I do not think that the Committee had in their minds quite what the effect of their recommendation would be, because it is practically impossible to prevent that, owing to the fact that where milk is used in the manufacture of margarine a certain proportion of the butter fat is absorbed by the oleo, and retained in the finished article; but if any admixture is to be prohibited, it is very difficult to say whether the butter found in the margarine is there as the result of the natural process of manufacture or whether it is added after-

wards. The recommendation was not, therefore, a very practical one, and it became my duty to consider whether it was necessary that a limitation should be imposed with regard to this matter. The hon. Baronet told the House that this was an attempt to interfere with the food of the working man. I would like to point out to the House that, in regard to good margarine of a cheap character, which varies in price from 5d. to 7d. a pound, no serious effects will result from this clause if it is carried as it stands. What was the evidence before the Committee? The House will find that in their evidence the great distributing firms, who deal largely in these articles, and probably know more about them than anybody else from a practical point of view—I allude to such firms as Lipton's and the Home and Colonial Stores—assert that there is no demand whatever for mixtures. (Opposition cries of "Oh, Oh!") I may say that I am only telling the House what has been stated by practical men who are doing a very large trade in these particular articles. They assert that there is no demand for mixtures whatever, and that if they were offered for sale as mixtures, the consuming public would not buy them. The hon. Member for Devonport has said that there is a huge and hideous swindle going on throughout the country in the shape of the sale of these mixtures as butter. I may say that the best chemical authorities which I have been able to approach, and the best technical and expert evidence that I could get in respect to the manufacture of margarine, goes to show that the best margarine that can be made is made without any admixture of butter to the manufactured margarine, and contains only 3 or 4, or 5 per cent. at the most, of butter fat. Therefore the argument in regard to the excision of this clause is not confirmed by those who are, at all events, as good and reliable authorities as the hon. Baronet opposite. The hon. Baronet stated that workhouses and lunatic asylums in their contracts insist upon having margarine containing 20 per cent. of butter fat. I believe it is quite true that they do make that condition. I have obtained the best information I could get upon this small point whether margarine containing 20 per cent. of butter fat is a better or more nutritious article than margarine containing a lesser

amount of butter fat ; and all the information I have been able to obtain goes to show that the very best margarine you can have, viewed from the point of view either of its palatableness or its nutritious properties, is margarine containing an amount of butter fat below the limit which is imposed under this clause. In that case it cannot be said that we are forcing an inferior article upon the country. If this is true, and if the statements are correct ; if it is the case that this margarine mixed with butter would have little or no place in the markets of the country were it not for the fact that the greater proportion of it finds a market only because people buy it, believing it to be butter, then I say a case is established for some legislation such as is found in this clause. I think it is absurd for hon. Gentlemen to say that by proposing this clause we are supporting our own interests and protecting the agricultural interests. It is all very well for hon. Gentlemen to say that, but I would ask the House if the Manchester Chamber of Commerce are likely to be actuated by such a motive ? Do firms such as Lipton's and the Home and Colonial Stores care anything about the agricultural interest ?

AN HON. MEMBER : They only sell butter.

***MR. LONG :** My information is that they deal very largely in those particular articles which we are discussing. I can only give to the House the opinions of these dealers as I find them publicly stated, and all my information goes to show that these two firms are among the largest dealers who supply the public with margarine, and, therefore, their opinion must be accepted as coming from a reliable and authoritative source. I am not asking the House to believe that these firms are infallible, but the argument used by hon. Gentlemen opposite is simply begging the whole question, and it is an attempt to draw a miserable red herring across the path to talk about benefitting the agricultural interest. This clause has been proposed from no motive of that kind, but solely because we are satisfied in the first instance that this limitation will in no way interfere with the production of the very best article which it is possible to offer to the public ; and, in the second place, as it is called—and wrongly called—an inferior article, it would find

no place in the markets of this country at all if it was not for the fact that it is sold for that which it is not. Therefore without some limitation of this kind it will be impossible to check a system of fraud which is going on almost wholesale, and which has admittedly become a great public scandal with which we desire to deal under the provisions which we have included in this Bill. I ask the House to disagree with this proposal to omit this clause, on the ground which has been publicly stated by my hon. friend the Member for Stockport, who has admitted that the contentious parts of this Bill have practically been compromised. For these reasons I respectfully submit that I have established a case in answer to the arguments advanced by the hon. Baronet opposite, and therefore I invite the House to vote against the Amendment, and thus retain this clause in the Bill as it now stands.

***MR. HEDDERWICK :** The reasons advanced by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill can hardly be regarded with satisfaction in any part of the House. He does not, it appears, personally approve of legislation of the kind which he is engaged in forcing through Parliament. Well, that is a strange ground upon which to defend a serious measure. But what does he tell us is the source and origin of this particular clause ? He tells us that its genesis is due to the recommendation of a Select Committee, who, according to the right hon. Gentleman's own showing, did not even understand what they were about ; who, if they had known what they were doing, must have known that their recommendation was impracticable. Surely there never was a more preposterous reason for proposing to force upon this House a clause which certainly is obnoxious to most of the Members sitting upon this side of the House, and which I cannot help thinking will meet with strong opposition from Members on the other side of the House if they are allowed to exercise a free opinion. What is the object aimed at by the Bill ? Ostensibly it is to prevent fraud. Yes, but what sort of fraud ? It is to prevent the fraud of passing off upon a purchaser something other than that which he demands and for which he has paid. That is the fraud, not simply adulteration. There are many adulterated articles whose manufacture

Mr. Long.

and sale are perfectly legitimate, but the fraud which has always hitherto been legislated against in Acts of this class is the fraud which imposes upon the purchaser an article which is not the article he is supposed to be purchasing. If that is so what becomes of this particular clause? Where is the fraud that you are legislating against here? You are by this clause, for the first time in the history of food products, making butter an article of adulteration. You are prohibiting any man from putting into margarine more than 10 per cent. of butter fat. Thus you are treating butter as an adulterated article. Upon what grounds should you do that? I suppose it never was contended that any legislation should be directed against making an article as good as possible. I think it was the right hon. Gentleman himself who, earlier in the discussion, stated that one of the things against which he would strenuously contend would be any attempt to interfere with an industry producing the production of a really good article. Well, let us look the facts in the face. I understand that the trade in margarine amounts to about 180,000,000 pounds per annum. If you were to take an allowance of one pound per week as a fair allowance for a working man, then you get about three and a half millions of people in this country who use this food-stuff daily, and the proposition contained in this clause which the right hon. Gentleman wishes to force upon this House is to prevent these three and a half millions of people from obtaining more than 10 per cent. of butter fat in their margarine. Why should this limitation be applied only at one end? What of the butter dealer who churns up 10 per cent. of margarine in his butter? What, again, of the man who may honestly wish to supply a genuine demand for margarine with 20 per cent. of butter fat? He cannot do this without incurring your penalties. Well, if he has to risk these penalties in any case, will he not be tempted to call his mixture butter for the sake of the butter price? If this clause remains it will most certainly be looked upon by dealers in margarine as an attempt—and it will be a very foolish attempt, whatever the right hon. Gentleman may say—to legislate in the interests of one particular industry to the great injury of another. But if that really be the object of the right hon. Gentleman then his own

proposal fails, because the more butter there is used, in whatever form it may be consumed, the better it must be for the agricultural interest. Without going further into the question at the present moment, I heartily support the hon. Baronet's motion.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I desire to read a telegram which I have received from the Manchester, Salford, and District Grocers' Association, in which the secretary to that body says:—

"I have to beg of you in the interest of commercial honesty to resist any attempt to increase the percentage of butter fat in margarine beyond 10 per cent."

I contend that Clause 8 does not prevent either the manufacture or the sale of margarine. My experience has been that dealers are very ready indeed to tell the purchaser whether he is purchasing margarine or butter; but if this clause is omitted, the purchaser will not know whether he is buying margarine or butter.

MR. ABEL THOMAS: With regard to this clause, hon. Members seem to forget that we already possess power to deal with fraud. At present you have power to exclude, after inspection, every bit of margarine that comes into this country, and you can in that way stop fraud perfectly easily. But now you are proposing to deal with something which is quite beyond that, for you are saying that, whatever the taste of the public may be, in future certain sorts of margarine are not to be manufactured, and cannot be sold at all. I was astounded to hear the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill say that margarine with ten per cent. or less of butter fat was as nutritious as butter itself.

*MR. LONG: What I said was that from a nutritious point of view, there was no advantage gained by consuming margarine containing 20 per cent. of butter fat, than there was from consuming margarine containing ten per cent. and even a lesser amount of butter fat.

MR. ABEL THOMAS: That assertion astonishes me, because the conclusion I naturally come to is that margarine is as nutritious in every way as butter. It seems to me that we are running the risk of stopping the manufacture of something

which may be extremely good and valuable in the future. The right hon. Gentleman stated that there is no difficulty in discovering when an article is adulterated, and if that is so, it is all nonsense to talk about stopping fraud by this proposal. You can stop fraud without it, and you are attempting to do now what has never been attempted to be done before in any other branch of industry in this country, for you are absolutely forbidding the manufacture of an article of diet which no one can venture to say is improper in any way. The only thing you can say is, that people have been fraudulent in the past by selling it as something which it is not. This clause is quite outside the Bill itself, and it would not make the least bit of difference to the working of the Act if it were left out. I do hope that we shall not forbid the manufacture of something which may be extremely valuable as a food to the people of this country in a very few years' time. I should be very sorry to vote against the Government on any part of this Bill, and I trust they will reconsider their position. I venture to think that all Members who seriously consider this point will come to the conclusion that this is a bad clause, and if it is not withdrawn, I hope every Member of the House will do his best to secure the omission of this clause.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I sat upon the Grand Committee, and I took a great interest in this Bill. What is it that this Bill is intended to do? Surely it is intended to let the people have what they please, provided you protect them from fraud and from purchasing articles which they do not want to buy. Why should we go out of our way to say that this particular margarine should only contain a certain quantity of butter? I cannot understand why there should be drastic rules to prevent a man buying a fictitious article, such as butter containing a large portion of margarine, providing he knows what he is buying. If any man in my constituency chooses to have margarine with 30, 40, or 50 per cent. of butter, why should he not be allowed to buy it? The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill has been very conciliatory, and I think his speech, although it waxed a little strong, did not ring as if he was very keen upon this clause. He said that he found that the best margarine was made with less than 10 per cent. of butter fat.

Mr. Abel Thomas.

But surely it is no part of the duty of the Government of this country to settle how these things are to be made, and it is not for them to say whether the best margarine is made in one way or another. I must say that I do hope the right hon. Gentleman will give way upon this matter, and declare that, while taking strong measures to prevent fraud, if a man chooses to say this is a mixture containing 20, 30, or 40 per cent. of butter fat, he shall be allowed to sell it. It cannot be said that manufacturers put in a larger amount of butter fat simply for the sake of doing it, but they do so because they get a better article. They are people of education, and I think we may take it for granted that there is a great deal to be said in favour of a larger percentage of butter. I must protest against the poor persons I have the honour to represent being prevented from buying this article if they wish to have it. All I am concerned about is, that they should be protected from fraud. I shall therefore vote against the retention of this clause if the right hon. Gentleman does not give way upon this point.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): Upon a previous occasion I contended that the public had a perfect right to buy margarine mixed with 20, 30, 40, or 50 per cent. of butter fat, if it was sold to them under a proper and honest description. All we have to do is to see that the public get an honest description of the article which they pay for, and that such article is not injurious to their health. Therefore Clause 8 of this Bill looks to me altogether like a foreign body in a Bill for this purpose. I think it is altogether out of place, for it is attempting to do something which is not in consonance with the general principle of the Bill—it is attempting to lay down a standard for an article of food. That is an unscientific principle altogether, because what is true today is not true to-morrow. I am afraid that this Bill is not drawn in the interest of the consumer; it is pervaded with another and what I may call a sinister purpose; it is "in the interest of agriculture," and evidence of this appears in the clause which has for its object the limitation of the consumption of margarine in the interest of the producers of butter. In the present case you are limiting the sale of certain higher

classes of margarine. At the present time the public buy these mixtures of butter and margarine to a large extent, and they know what they are buying, and have it served to them properly labelled. They will not go into a shop and ask for margarine; they do not mind, however, asking for a "pound of 6d. or 8d." These are the shifts to which the poor of this country are driven in order to get what they want. Why should they not be able to get it without let or hindrance? The present law is quite sufficient, for it insists that the dealer shall sell the article under the description of margarine, and not as butter. Hitherto the provision has not been compulsory all over the country, but under Clause 3 it is now proposed to make it compulsory. The Bill gives, further, a larger amount of inspecting power, and, in conjunction with the existing law, I am sure that the provisions are quite sufficient to protect the public against fraud. It is proposed to limit the addition of butter fat to margarine so as to keep it impoverished, and, in order to help the sale of genuine butter, you are introducing a new and absolutely unnecessary clause, to the great hurt of the public. I think you are treating this industry very unfairly in this respect. Personally I believe the more butter you add to the margarine the more palatable compound you make it. That is a common-sense statement of the position. The public want to have this article supplied to them, and we ought not to put any impediment in the way of its being supplied. I do not think that the public authorities who advertise for a mixture containing at least 20 per cent. of butter fat, instead of the usual 10 per cent., would do so unless they believed that they were securing a good article for consumption. I should like to see the people in our workhouses, and other poor people, get as high a percentage of butter fat in the compound as is possible. If you persist in this attempt to stop the sale of these mixtures your object will eventually be defeated by people buying the two articles separately and mixing them for themselves. You will only add to their trouble. I do not believe that this clause is one which will be conducive to the general well-being of the public. I do not think it will have the effect of increasing the price of butter, although on superficial examination the tendency of limiting the amount of butter fat, and lowering the standard of margarine, might

be to produce a greater demand for butter. I think you are going on the wrong grounds altogether, and I, for one, shall vote against this clause, because I look upon it as an unfair restriction on the production of a wholesome food product. It is an attempt to prevent the public obtaining an article for which they wish, and it is an unfair restriction of trade without producing any greater guarantee of purity.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs): I have been throughout the progress of this Bill a consistent supporter of my right hon. friend, and whenever there has been any question as to the best means of effectually preventing fraud I have gone thoroughly with him. I should be the last man to accuse him of having anything but a sincere desire to do that which is right, whether it will benefit agriculture or not. But I fail to see in what way this clause will give the consumer more protection against fraud than he already has under the existing law. By it we are seeking to make the people take an inferior article to that which they wish for, or, at least, we are compelling them to take a pure article which in many cases is inferior at the price compared with that which they are now taking. Among workmen in my constituency, and in other parts of Scotland, a strong opinion has been expressed on this point. The question is of considerable importance to them in connection with their mutual trading societies, one of which purchases huge quantities of all kinds of food products. They are distinctly against this clause, because they hold that it will lead to a considerable interference with their business, while it will fail to afford any protection against fraud. I distinctly agree with them in that, and in consequence I shall have to give my first adverse vote upon the Bill against this clause.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): The hon. Baronet who moved the rejection of this clause took the point that we should be depriving the public of the opportunity of purchasing a superior article, and that they would be compelled instead to take an inferior one. But what was the nature of the evidence which was laid before the Committee? The witnesses included importers of great reputation, and persons who represented merchants, distributors, and consumers, and the sum total of the evidence was that these mixtures were the

root and foundation of the whole of this dishonest trading. I suppose the large distributors of the country are equally as competent to express an opinion as to what is demanded by consumers as hon. Members here are to speak in the interests of their constituents. I myself had the privilege of introducing to the right hon. Gentleman a very influential deputation of importers, merchants, and distributors. The distributors represented an annual turn-over in direct sales to the consumer of more than ten millions sterling per annum. What was the evidence they gave about these mixtures? It was, that there were two distinct classes of buyers that came to the retail branches which were distributed over England, Scotland, and Ireland. There were those who came to buy margarine and those who came to buy butter. They sold no mixtures, because under the present Act they would have to describe them as margarine, and while the price of margarine ranged from 4d. to 6d. per pound, the price of butter was 10d. to 1s. per pound. There was thus a hiatus between the two. If they had sold the mixtures, for which they would have had to ask a higher price although they would still have been labelled as margarine, the public could not have been induced to buy it at all. The point I want to make is that these mixtures are not being sold as margarine; they are being palmed off on the public as butter. Take a trade paper of any date you like. Study the statistics with regard to Glamorganshire, and it will be found that grocers in that district are perpetually being summoned for this fraud. A person goes into a shop and asks for butter at 1s. per lb., but what he gets is an article containing 85 per cent. of margarine. The hon. Member for the Kilmarnock Burghs spoke on behalf of the working men. I will guarantee to produce, at a few days' notice, 100 cases from Scotland of this fraud, where the working man is paying his money for butter and getting this vile decoction. These mixtures are the foundation of the whole fraud. It is very easy to argue that if the present law were perfectly enforced, and if these articles were properly sold, there would be no necessity for this measure. But the law is not enforced; it has broken down; this fraud continues. The strongest point of all is that the great distributors, with branches all over the kingdom, do not sell these mixtures;

they have tried to sell them, but without success. People who want butter will not have a mixture, and those who want margarine will only pay margarine price. I am perfectly certain that the right hon. Gentleman is taking a wise course in limiting the admixture of butter with margarine. The average quantity of these mixtures does not exceed 20 per cent. of the total output, showing that 80 per cent. is bought as margarine and not as mixtures at all. That is another testimony that there is no universal demand for these mixtures. I do not claim to have any very special knowledge, but I have carefully considered the question here, and, in supporting this clause, I believe the Government will have taken a very drastic step towards stamping out this adulteration.

*SIR JOHN LENG: My hon. friend, the Member for Devonport, has alluded to a large and influential deputation which he introduced upon this subject. About twelve months ago one of the Members for Liverpool, who sits on the other side of the House, and who, along with myself, sat on the Select Committee, introduced to the President of the Local Government Board one of the most crowded delegations I have ever attended—a delegation of grocers and large provision dealers and produce merchants from all parts of the country. The members of the delegation successively rose and stated, not only that they found by experience that there is a large demand for butter and margarine mixtures, but that they thought it would be exceedingly injurious to the trade and the commerce in which they are engaged if such restrictions as are proposed in this Bill were enforced. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill referred to the conduct of the Bill in Committee. I have the greatest pleasure in bearing testimony to the invariable fairness, reasonableness, and conciliatory manner in which he conducted the Bill through the Committee. But I think it was obvious that there were some clauses which he was bound officially to support, but which he was not so keen in advocating as was the case with other clauses. The very fact that he has sitting on his right hand a gentleman who, as Chairman of the Select Committee, declined to commit himself to what is proposed in this clause, indicates that the Government have had a very difficult task.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.): I declined to commit myself officially.

good mixtures of margarine and butter to be sold under the proper name, 'margarine,' and it shows great weakness on the part of the proposer of the Bill that he should think it necessary to prohibit the manufacture of a clean, healthy, wholesome article of food."

There are cross-currents in this House; there are cross-currents in the grocery and provision trades. There are dealers who deal in particular classes of goods, and they wish legislation to favour what they deal in, and they wish, if possible, to put a weight in the balance against other dealers with whom they have to deal. There are also cross-currents and diverse interests amongst the working men. I have great respect for my hon. friend the Member for Battersea: he is one of the most intelligent of men; I might exhaust the complimentary epithets in the dictionary with regard to him, and I should be quite sincere in doing so. But I know he thinks I am a heretic on this question. I reciprocate the compliment.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): I always suspect mixtures.

*SIR JOHN LENG: He says he is against working men being imposed upon. So am I. But, I say, who are the best judges but the working men themselves? The co-operative societies of the country represent the working men to a very large extent, and what does the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society say:

"Our society is composed of 289 co-operative societies, with a membership of over 220,000, all ratepayers and voters living in all parts of Scotland. Our members are chiefly of the working classes, who are interested in the clauses of the Bill and in preventing any restriction affecting the sale of a wholesome article. We entirely concur in what is said in the letter of the Health Committee, and we trust that you will use your utmost endeavours to get the suggestions therein made carried into effect, and thus benefit the general public."

I have already adverted to the fact that north of the Tweed public opinion of all classes is almost entirely solid on this subject. My hon. friend the Member for Bridgeton has referred to the fact that the two most powerful supporters of the Government in the Press, the two journals which have the largest circulation and the greatest influence in Scotland—and as the proprietor of another journal I have the greatest satisfaction in saying that—the *Scotsman* and the *Glasgow Herald*, both strongly representing the intelligence and enlightenment of Scotland, have most vigorously opposed this

"Your petitioners consider that if Clause 8 of the Bill passes into law the Act will certainly fail of its end. They are of opinion that the community cannot now be deprived of so important, wholesome, and relatively cheap an article of food as margarine, and that the public is entitled to demand to get the best margarine which producers can supply."

And, further:

"There is no informed person known to your petitioners who questions the goodness and desirability of margarine as a high-class and most valuable food. The fault of its producers appears to be that they have made it too good and too cheap."

Whoever heard before of such an attempt as is now being made—an unprincipled attempt in my view—to prevent by legislation an article being improved and made as good as it can be made? A gentleman engaged in the same business writes:

"I know no Act of Parliament that prohibits the improvement of any article whatever. I would ask, if it is allowable to add unlimited quantities of silk to cotton, cocoas to starch, wool to cotton, or coffee to chicory, for the improvement of the inferior article, why should the amount of butter be limited that may be mixed with margarine? Surely this proposed new law is strong enough to allow of

clause. *The Scotsman* says:

"It will not be easy to sustain the contention that the proposed regulations and restrictions of the margarine industry are not designed to protect one interest at the expense of another. The truth is that butter as a 'pure' or 'simple' article is, from various points of view, a 'basis' article, using the word as it is applied to pure grape or other fruit juice in the wine trade."

The Glasgow Herald says:

"What have been the guiding principles in this class of legislation during the past? The first is that all articles of food offered for sale must be wholesome and good; the second is that they must be sold for what they really are. But both these principles are set at naught by a clause which would debar dairies from increasing the quality of an article of sound and legitimate commerce and traders from selling it. Besides, see what this might lead to. So far as the working classes are concerned it might limit their supply of an important wholesome and relatively cheap supply of food, while it would certainly prevent them from getting margarine of a high quality, however much they should desire to do so. There seems, therefore, every reason to hope that the clause will disappear before the Bill passes into law."

It is because I wish that that hope will be realised that I oppose this clause. It has already been said that this attempt to define by a clause what a mixed article of food should be will probably interfere with the progress of science. On that point the Berlin correspondent of *The Times* states that:

"Some experiments have been carried out recently in Germany, at the suggestion of Dr. Liebreich, with an emulsion of almond paste as a substitute for milk in the manufacture of margarine. The resulting substance, in taste, colour, and consistency resembles ordinary butter, and is stated to be absolutely free from all dangerous organisms. It keeps fresh much longer than butter, and only costs about half as much. Any kind of nuts can be used in the manufacture of this substitute."

By attempting to restrict a wholesome mixture intended to be an important article of food you are altering the whole current of legislation. I am satisfied that if the Leader of the House will agree to the withdrawal of this clause, which has been properly described as an excrescence on the Bill, it would very much simplify the passage of the Bill. We should feel conscientiously bound in duty to our constituents to a large number of manufacturers and traders, and to the people who purchase these articles of food, to at once withdraw all opposition to the other clauses. I do appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to take that course.

Sir John Leng.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): There is one argument which appears of importance with regard to this matter on which I should like to say a word. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of this Bill was chiefly influenced by the opinion of the great distributors, who, as my hon. friend the Member for Devonport said, turn over £10,000,000 a year. I think we ought to hesitate before we are influenced by the opinions of such people. There are two easy explanations of their preference for butter. Butter is the dearer article, and therefore distributors, as my hon. friend has said, make a great deal more money by distributing it than by distributing margarine.

MR. KEARLEY: Oh, no. I said the distributors made more by distributing the cheaper article.

MR. LOUGH: The House will be able to weigh the arguments. I did not agree with my hon. friend, but I did not stand up to interrupt him, and I think he has not contributed particularly to the Debate by interrupting me. My hon. friend now states that distributors make more profit by distributing margarine; but my second point is directly in opposition to that. I claim that in the nature of things, margarine being made by capitalist manufacturers, they are more fit to compete with the great distributing companies as an article out of which not so much profit is made in its distribution as in the distribution of butter. Every interest I have in this debate is on the side of butter. In Ireland some friends of mine are deeply interested in its production, and I am associated with the right hon. Member for South Dublin in the splendid effort he is making to improve the manufacture of butter in Ireland, but I do not like to speak in favour of anything in which I am interested, and in maintaining the case of margarine I am speaking against my own interests. The distribution of butter is far more profitable than the distribution of margarine.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question before the House is whether the sale of certain mixtures should be prevented.

MR. LOUGH: I quite agree, Mr. Speaker, and I will sum up by asking the House not to be led away by the casuistry of these great distributing companies, but to seek out some single good principle and to stick to it. What is the principle I would suggest? We are legislating

this afternoon in a way we have never legislated before, because we are making it a crime to improve the quality of a great article of food. This House ought to be ashamed to do such a thing. If the clauses we have already passed are good clauses, which we are assured they are, if they are going to be as effective as we are assured they are going to be, then rely upon them, and do not drag in this clause. It is said that a great deal of fraud is perpetrated in the sale of mixtures, but this Bill prevents the sale of any mixture, because, if only 1 per cent. of margarine is added, the substance must be sold as margarine. Therefore every argument based on that point falls to the ground. I think we should be making a great mistake in preventing any person making margarine as good as it can be made, and I ask the House to act in accordance with previous legislation.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): May I appeal to hon. Members? I quite recognise that this has been an

important matter, but surely it has been adequately discussed. If the House will decide the point now, and let us have Clause 8, I will move to report progress, or make the corresponding motion.

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL: I desire to point out that if this clause is passed thousands of honest traders in this country who expose for sale margarine that contains more than 10 per cent. of butter fat, although they sell it as margarine, can be prosecuted. Is that a fair measure to pass? I think this is an important point which has been overlooked, and I am afraid the Government will not realise it until they find traders throughout the country brought before the magistrates, not for selling margarine as butter, but because they are selling an article containing 10 per cent. of butter fat. I think that is a scandal.

Question put.

The House divided.

Ayes, 166; Noes, 83. (Division List, No. 284.)

AYES.

Abraham, W. (Cork, N.E.)	Coghill, Douglas Harry	Gunter, Colonel
Allsopp, Hon. George	Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)	Heaton, John Henniker
Arrol, Sir William	Cotton-Jodrell, Col. Edw T. D.	Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Hill, Sir Edward S. (Bristol)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampst' d)
Baillie, Jas. E. B. (Inverness)	Curzon, Viscount	Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Balcarres, Lord	Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh	Hobhouse, Henry
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)	Dalkeith, Earl of	Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Hornby, Sir William Henry
Banbury, Frederick George	Davitt, Michael	Howell, William Tudor
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Doogan, P. C.	Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.	Doughty, George	Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Johnston, William (Belfast)
Beach, Rt Hon Sir MH. (Bristol)	Drucker, A.	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Beach, WW Bramston (Hants.)	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Kearley, Hudson E.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull	Fellowes, Hon Ailwyn Edward	Kimber, Henry
Bigwood, James	Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (Manc'r)	Knowles, Lees
Bill, Charles	Finch, George H.	Lambert, George
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Finlay, Sir Robert B.	Laurie, Lieut.-General
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Fisher, William Hayes	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Brassey, Albert	FitzWigram, General Sir F.	Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Garfit, William	Leighton, Stanley
Burns, John	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Carlile, William Walter	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Goschen, Rt Hn GJ (St George's)	Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Lowe, Francis William
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Cum'lnd)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r.)	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Lucas-Shadwell, William
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)	Macaleese, Daniel
Chelsea, Viscount	Gretton, John	Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Coddington, Sir William	Gull, Sir Cameron	Macdona, John Cumming
		MacIver, David (Liverpool)

MacLure, Sir John William
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morgan, Hn Fred. (Monmouthshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt Hon A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy

Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Strachey, Edward
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Talbot, Rt Hon J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)

Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Ward, Hon. R. A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Younger, William
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Billson, Alfred
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carnichael, Sir T. B. Gibson
 Cawley, Frederick
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colomb, Sir John C. Ready
 Colville, John
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
 Denny, Colonel
 Dewar, Arthur
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)
 Evershed, Sydney
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hazel, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.

Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.)
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hon Sir T.
 Kinloch, Sir John Gec. Symth
 Langley, Batty
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cum'land)
 Leng, Sir John
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lober, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lough, Thomas
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Killop, James
 Maddison, Fred.
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs SW)

Pirie, Duncan V.
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
 Thorburn, Walter
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Weir, James Galloway
 Williams, Jno. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woods, Samuel
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Charles Cameron and
 Mr. Jonathan Samuel.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I hope the Leader of the House will now report progress. I understand that a great number of important Amendments to the clause itself still remain to be discussed. It would be against the understanding come to if we sat much longer.

MR. LONG: I only speak with the leave of the House. I do not know on what information the right hon. Gentleman spoke, but so far as the Amendments on the Paper are concerned, no special point is raised by them, except the

amount of percentage. That does not amount to a large number of questions, as was suggested by the right hon. Gentleman, and I think we might finish this clause.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I understand that if the Amendments are not very numerous, they are at all events important, and likely to give rise to discussion. I do not think the right hon. Gentleman will lose anything by adjourning now.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am sorry that the right hon. Gentleman takes that

view. I quite agree that it is undesirable to ask the House to sit on Wednesday afternoon, except under very exceptional circumstances, beyond the hour now reached. I assent to the adjournment of the Debate, but I hope the right hon. Gentleman will assist the Government in getting the remainder of the Bill when it comes on again. I shall put it down as the second Order for to-morrow night.

Further consideration, as amended, deferred till to-morrow.

**CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD
(IRELAND) [EXPENSES.]**

Resolution reported :

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of an annual sum, not exceeding £25,000, for the purposes of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts, including the payment of the salaries or remuneration of officers employed by the Board, and the administrative expenses of the Board, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session relating to the Congested Districts Board (Ireland)."

Resolution agreed to.

**CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD
(IRELAND) BILL.**

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

MR. GRANT LAWSON (York, N.R., Thirsk) in the chair.

Clause 5.

MR. STRACHEY (Somerset, S.): I think the Chief Secretary for Ireland should give some explanation of why he proposes to devote a sum of £25,000 a year more out of the pockets of the English taxpayers for the benefit of Ireland. I do not think that this sum ought to be voted *sub silentio*. When the right hon. Gentlemen opposite sat on this side of the House their great objection to Home Rule was that we would have to pay for it, and they made this a grievance with the English working man. Now that they are on that side of the House they are doing exactly what they condemned when sitting here. We should have some specific explanation of why

this additional appropriation is to be made to the Irish tenants.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The amount at present granted to the Congested Districts Board is £6,500. The sum now proposed is £25,000, and the real addition to the income of the Congested Districts Board proposed by the Bill is about £18,000 or £19,000. The reason why we are asking for that increase is this. The board has been established for nine years, and the experimental stage is now over. The particular object for which the larger sum will be required is the purchase and subsequent improvement of the estates before selling them to the tenant. A large part of the money spent on improvements will be reproductive, but not in every instance.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I am sure my hon. friend does not intend to arrest the progress of this Bill through the House. I wish to assure him that in the end it will tend to relieve the taxpayers' pockets. One of the objects of the Congested Districts Board is to find a permanent remedy for the recurring distress in certain districts in the West of Ireland, and to try and relieve poor tenants and better their social condition.

Clause agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

NAVAL WORKS [CONSOLIDATED FUND.]

Resolutions reported—

"(1.) That it is expedient to make further provision for the construction of works in the United Kingdom and elsewhere for the purposes of the Royal Navy, and to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums not exceeding in the whole £3,100,000, as may be required for those purposes, and to apply the provisions of The Naval Works Act, 1895, and of The Naval Works Act, 1896 (as to the mode of raising money, and as to the application of surplus income), to the said purposes.

"(2.) That it is expedient to amend the law with respect to the construction and use of tramways for naval purposes."

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) said there were one or two points as to which he desired some explanation.

The amount of money asked for seemed to be out of all proportion, as far as he could ascertain, to precedent. The House was asked to sanction the borrowing of £3,100,000—and this in the middle of July—while the Admiralty had already unexhausted borrowing powers in regard to a million of money. Hitherto the Naval Works Bill had been an annual Bill, but the money now asked for was to cover the expenditure of two years.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): If the House will consent to pass this Resolution now and allow the Bill to be brought in, I hope the Bill itself will be in the hands of Members to-morrow morning, together with a memorandum giving a full explanation of the works proposed as well as a schedule setting out each work separately. We desire to give the House the fullest possible information. The expenditure for which we provide in this Act is to last until the 31st March, 1901, that is to say, for two years, in the same way as the money under the last Act was for two years. The Bill follows very closely the Act of 1897, as far as it is applicable to present circumstances. As soon as the Bill is circulated plans of the new works shall be placed in the Tea Room.

*SIR U. KAY - SHUTTLEWORTH (Lancashire, Clitheroe): We must all be obliged to my hon. friend who has asked this question, and to the hon. Gentleman opposite for the statement he has made. This Bill is brought in at an extremely late period of the session, and apparently is in some respects a departure from precedent. For the first time the House is informed that this is a Bill for two years, instead of an annual Bill, by which the control of Parliament over this great expenditure is preserved from year to year. But I do not rise for the purpose of offering criticisms on this Bill, because I think it would be very much more convenient that we should discuss the measure when it is in our hands, with the memorandum to which the hon. Member referred. I think we may fairly ask that as there is this new departure in respect of the Bill being for two years, and as new works are included, a reasonable time should be allowed for its consideration. I hope that the Second Reading will not be taken this week.

MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) asked whether the memorandum to be presented to-morrow would show the estimates for the last three years on the various works compared with the actual expenditure, as there appeared to be a great discrepancy between the estimated expenditure and the actual expenditure. It was manifest that the Civil Lord must have expected small progress during the coming year, and still smaller in the following year, if this amount of £1,400,000 were a correct estimate.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The remarks of the hon. Gentleman show the great inconvenience of discussing a matter of this kind before the Bill is in the hands of hon. Members. The hon. Gentleman has stated not very accurately the amount of money required for works already completed, and has assumed that it is for the expenditure of the next two years. He will find when the Bill is in his hands that this is not so, and with regard to the next two years I hope we shall make good progress.

Resolutions agreed to:—Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Goschen, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Macartney, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

“To make further provision for the construction of works in the United Kingdom and elsewhere for the purposes of the Royal Navy, and to amend the law with respect to the construction and use of tramways for naval purposes,” presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 278.]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (CLAUSES) BILL.

As amended, considered. Amendments made. Bill read the third time, and passed.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at ten minutes before Seven of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 20th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 15).

And the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill :

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the Committee having found that the petitioners had no *locus standi* before them ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 11th July and Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 17) BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ; the orders made on the 11th of July and Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House for to-morrow.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14) BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ; the Orders made on the 11th of July and Tuesday last discharged ; and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

GODALMING CORPORATION WATER BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

CITY AND BRIXTON RAILWAY BILL.
DARWEN CORPORATION BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

BEXHILL AND ROTHERFIELD RAILWAY BILL.

Reported with an Amendment.

GREENOCK AND PORT GLASGOW TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.]

Commons Amendment considered, and agreed to.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments ; further Amendments made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION BILL.

DERBY CORPORATION TRAMWAYS, &c., BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

BROOKE'S PARK (LONDONDERRY) BILL [H.L.]

OWEN'S COLLEGE, MANCHESTER, BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons, agreed to.

LINCOLN AND EAST COAST RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL.

LOWESTOFT PROMENADE PIER BILL.

MIDLAND AND SOUTH-WESTERN JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

BRISTOL GAS BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment made by the Lords to the Amendments made by the Commons, agreed to.

SOUTH HANTS WATER BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order), and Bills to be read 3rd Tomorrow.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

Read 3rd (according to order), with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

METROPOLIS MANAGEMENT ACTS AMENDMENT (BYELAWS) BILL [H.L.]

Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Report of the Committee of Council on Education on schools for the blind and deaf; with appendices, 1898-99.

INDIA (ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES, 1899-1900).

Explanatory memorandum by the Secretary of State for India.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

Correspondence relating to the Bloemfontein Conference, 1899.

AGRARIAN OUTRAGES (IRELAND).

Returns for the quarter ended 30th June, 1899.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, GALWAY.

Annual Report of the President, for the Session, 1898-99.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Orders in Council of 14th July, 1899—

- I. Sanctioning a reduction, made by the Trinity House in Kingston-upon-Hull, of certain buoyage and beaconage dues levied by that Corporation between Hull and the sea;
- II. Approving certain pilotage bye-laws made by the Corporation of Bristol.
- III. Authorising the increase, by the appointment of an additional lower grade clerk, of the establishment of the Trinity House.
- IV. Sanctioning an increase in the salary paid to Mr. George Napier McMurdo, a clerk in the service of the Commissioners of Irish Lights.
- V. Approving an amended bye-law made by the Newport (Mon.) Pilotage Board, in lieu of bye-law No. 11 of the bye-laws approved by Order in Council of 3rd October, 1895.
- VI. Approving certain bye-laws, made by the Trinity House in Kingston-upon-Hull, fixing the rates of pilotage between Hull and Goole.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Order in Council of 14th July 1899, entitled "The China, Japan, and Corea (Supreme Court) Order in Council, 1899."

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

HOUSES OF LORDS AND COMMONS PERMANENT STAFF.

Report from the Joint Committee (with the proceedings of the Committee) made, and to be printed. (No. 171.) Minutes of evidence, together with an appendix, laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out.

OYSTERS BILL [H.L.]

Report from the Select Committee (with the proceedings of the Committee)

made, and to be printed. (No. 172.) : Minutes of evidence laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out. Bill reported with Amendments ; and committed to a Committee of the Whole House ; and to be printed as amended. (No. 173.)

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL [H.L.]

To be read 2^a on Tuesday next.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE AT KHARTOUM [H.L.]

Read 3^a (according to Order) ; Amendments made ; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

COMPANIES BILL [H.L.]

COMMITTEE.

Order of the Day for the House being put into Committee on this Bill read.

***THE LORD CHANCELLOR** (The EARL OF HALSBURY) : My Lords, it will be more in order to go into details with regard to the provisions of this Bill on the Third Reading. I will simply say now that the Select Committee to whom the matter has been referred thought it well to rely rather on provisions intended to prevent, if possible, the making of fraudulent companies than on the infliction of pains and penalties on persons who were engaged in the conduct of companies afterwards. They thought it more prudent to see that in the initiation of new companies certain precautions should be adopted to prevent their beginning business until they have sufficient capital, and that will be effected by a provision against allotment until a certain proportion of the capital has been subscribed. Furthermore, the Select Committee have thought it right that persons put forward as directors of a company should, by some act of their own, recognise the responsibility they have assumed, and be called upon to sign a declaration that they are, and intend to be, directors of the company of which they are advertised as directors. In the deliberations of the Committee, which have lasted three years, they have arrived at practical unanimity. There certainly has never been a better Committee constituted, in respect of its legal elements, its business elements, and its general knowledge of the world, and I think I may say the three years during

which they have sat have not been thrown away when they have arrived at practical unanimity with regard to a subject so important to the mercantile community. I shall go more minutely into the provisions of the Bill at a later stage, but I thought it necessary to say these few words on the present occasion.

House in Committee (according to Order) ; the Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made ; Standing Committee negatived ; the Report of Amendments to be received on Friday, the 28th inst.

QUESTIONS.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS : Seeing my noble friend the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies in his place, I would like to ask whether he can give the House any news with reference to the Transvaal.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (the Earl of SELBORNE) : My Lords, in answer to the question of the noble Earl, I have to say that the following telegram has been received from the High Commissioner, Sir Alfred Milner :

" 19th July. British Agent South African Republic reports Article IV. of Franchise Law passed by twenty-two votes to five, with following alterations in Clause 1—viz., the words 'at least seven' are substituted for 'nine,' and the words from 'or five years' to end of clause are deleted. This has effect of making residential qualification for franchise seven years retrospective."

Her Majesty's Government have no official information as to redistribution, but it has been stated that the Government of the South African Republic proposes to give seven new seats to the districts chiefly inhabited by aliens. If this report is confirmed, this important change in the proposals of President Kruger, coupled with previous Amendments, leads the Government to hope that the new law may prove to be a basis of settlement on the lines laid down by Sir Alfred Milner at the Bloemfontein Conference. They observe, however, that the Volksraad have still retained a number of conditions which might be so interpreted as to preclude those otherwise qualified from acquiring the franchise, and might, therefore, be used to take

away with one hand what has been given with the other. The provision that the alien desirous of burghership shall produce a certificate of continuous registration during the period required for naturalisation is an instance of this, for it has been stated that the law of registration has been allowed to fall into desuetude, and that but few aliens, however long resident in the country, have been continuously registered. It would also be easy by subsequent legislation to alter the whole character of the concessions now made, but Her Majesty's Government feel assured that the President, having accepted the principle for which they have contended, will be prepared to reconsider any detail of his schemes which can be shown to be a possible hindrance to the full accomplishment of the object in view, and that he will not allow them to be nullified or reduced in value by any subsequent alterations of the law or acts of administration. I may add that Her Majesty's Government received late last night the following telegram from the Governor of Natal :

"19th July. Resolution proposed to-day in Assembly by Baynes, seconded by Escombe. Begins :—'Legislative Assembly, Natal, desires to express its sympathy with and approval of action of British Government in its endeavour to secure equal rights and privileges for all Europeans in South Africa, whereby peace, prosperity, and termination of racial animosity in this country can alone be assured.' Ends. Prime Minister, who had to be carried to Assembly from his bed, to which he has been confined by the result of an accident for a fortnight, strongly supported on behalf of Government. Resolution carried unanimously amidst cheers."

KINGSTOWN HARBOUR.

***LORD CLONBROCK** : My Lords, I rise to ask to what Government Department the Kingstown Harbour Commissioners and harbour-master are responsible for the discharge of their duties, and to move—

"That it is desirable that a committee be appointed to inquire into the management of Kingstown harbour, and the adequacy of the staff of the harbour master, and whether the lay Board of Harbour Commissioners should have the power of reducing that staff on their sole authority."

I ask this question, my Lords, because it appears impossible, from the ordinary sources of information, to ascertain to what Department the Harbour Commissioners belong. Every Department seems inclined to disavow any connection with

The Earl of Selborne.

the Kingstown Board of Harbour Commissioners, but as they are a Government department and entrusted with the expenditure of public money there must be some Department to whom they are responsible, and to whom the harbour master can appeal for redress when he has been treated, as I think I proved to the House on Thursday that he has been in this case, in a very unjustifiable manner by the Commissioners. The answer which was given to the question I asked on Thursday appeared to me so unsatisfactory that I gave notice that I would move for an inquiry into the whole matter. In saying that the answer was most unsatisfactory I must, of course, assure my noble friend, Lord Denbigh, who gave the answer, that no reflection is intended upon him, because he only read a paper which had been placed in his hands, and was in no way responsible for the contents or the tenor of the answer. The more I look at the answer the more unsatisfactory it appears to be. In the first place, it is not actually an answer to my question at all. It states that the Commissioners were satisfied that if the harbour-master carried out the instructions given to him there would be no danger to life or property in the harbour. I never doubted for one moment that the Harbour Commissioners were satisfied on this point, or that they considered themselves competent to discharge the duties of the harbour-master as well as their own. For aught I know they may consider themselves competent to command the Channel Fleet. But my question was whether Her Majesty's Government were satisfied, which I trust is a very different matter ; whether they were of opinion that due security was afforded to vessels frequenting the harbour when the harbour master, an experienced naval officer, had reported that the staff which had been given to him was absolutely inadequate for the discharge of his duties. I hoped that the Government in view of the importance of the matter would not be content with the "ipse dixit" of a lay Board, but would consult some nautical authority. The Harbour Commissioners, as the answer stated, are undoubtedly responsible for the management and control of the harbour, and the harbour master is bound to carry out the regulations which have been made ; but the Commissioners have interfered with the men under the harbour master, and given them separate instructions. As a matter of fact, they interfere

with the harbour-master in all the details of his official business, and if they are to do this I should like to know what is the good of having an experienced naval officer holding this post. When Captain Crofton was appointed by the then Lord Lieutenant (the Duke of Marlborough), the noble Duke made it a *sine qua non* that the harbour-master should be a Commander in the Royal Navy of not less than forty years of age, and before making the appointment he referred to the Admiralty for particulars as to the character of that officer, and the appointment was not given to him until the noble Duke received a reply from the Admiralty stating that he bore a very high character. When the appointment was made, the noble Duke did not evidently anticipate that the harbour master would be reduced to the subordinate position in which it is now sought to place him. Under former Commissioners he was treated as a nautical adviser, and frequently consulted, and no attempt was made to interfere with him in the discharge of his duties. Now I come to what I consider the worst part of the answer which was given on behalf of the Government to the question asked by me on Thursday, viz., the unworthy insinuation thrown out against the harbour-master, that if he took a more active part in the discharge of his duties the staff might be reduced from twelve to eleven. The question I was calling attention to was the inadequacy of the staff of boatmen. Is it intended that the harbour-master should pull an oar in his boat, or act as stoker to his steam launch? If the answer does not mean that, what does it mean? How can an officer, by any increased activity, supply a deficiency on his staff unless he himself performs the duties of the man who is wanting? It seems so impossible that the Commissioners could have thus confused the duties of an officer and a seaman, that it looks to me as if this remark was made in the answer in an outbreak of temper, and as if the Commissioners, feeling that they were in the wrong, were trying to divert attention by throwing blame on somebody else. Their action reminds me of the old story of the instructions given to counsel—"We have no case, abuse the plaintiff's solicitor." There is an apparent discrepancy between the numbers I stated to the House on Thursday and the numbers given by the Commissioners.

I was speaking only of the staff of boatmen, and I stated that they numbered four, of whom only two could be on duty at one time. In addition to the boatmen there are two engine-room hands, two harbour constables, a night watchman, a messenger, and another officer who acts in the double capacity of pier-master and assistant harbour-master, making in all some eleven or twelve men; but of these only four are boatmen, and only two are available at one time. The Commissioners further said that the harbour-master was instructed to report immediately any case in which the authorised staff was found insufficient, and that no case had been reported; but I must remind the House that the chief ground of complaint on the part of the harbour-master, which it seems impossible to get the Board to recognise, was that the staff would be insufficient to cope with any emergency caused by stress of weather. This emergency has not occurred yet, but it is obvious that two men will be quite incapable of meeting it when it does occur. I think a sufficient case has been made out, and I hope Her Majesty's Government will grant an inquiry in some shape or form, and invite the opinion of nautical experts, who will be able to pronounce definitely whether the staff at the disposal of the harbour master is sufficient or not.

Moved.—

"That it is desirable that a committee be appointed to inquire into the management of Kingstown Harbour, and the adequacy of the staff of the harbour-master, and whether the lay Board of Harbour Commissioners should have the power of reducing that staff on their sole authority."—(The Lord Clonbrock.)

THE EARL OF CLANWILLIAM: I should like to express the hope that Her Majesty's Government will grant the inquiry asked for, because I think it is evident that the present Harbour Commissioners, who are really the Board of Works, have been exercising a false economy. Moreover, the action of the Commissioners in approaching the men under the harbour-master in the way they have done is subversive of all discipline.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (Viscount CROSS): My Lords, I will commence by answering the question which the noble Lord has asked. The Harbour Commissioners are directly under the control of the Treasury, and it is to that Depart-

ment that complaints should be made if the Commissioners do anything wrong. I admit to the full the importance of Kingstown Harbour, and I am quite willing to grant that when the harbour-master was appointed he had done most valuable service. He was an officer in the Navy, and in that position acquitted himself with great distinction. I hope I shall be able to persuade the noble Lord not to press his motion. I am told by the Treasury that it is unusual to grant an inquiry by a Committee of the House of Commons in regard to a Departmental question of this kind. Of course, this House has the right to order any inquiry it likes, but when the question is one of staff, which involves a money transaction, I hope your Lordships will not take that course unless there are very strong reasons for it. I regret very much that this question was not raised on the Irish Estimates in the House of Commons, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have been present to answer it, and the matter could have been better argued than it can possibly be in your Lordships' House. The question is really whether the staff of the harbour-master is sufficient or not, and I quite agree that when you have a naval officer as harbour-master—a man of considerable ability and capacity—his advice and opinion ought to have great weight with the Harbour Commissioners. I have a lot of correspondence in my hand which has taken place between the Harbour Commissioners and the authorities, but I am not going to trouble your Lordships by reading any portion of it. I observe, however, that my noble friend stated that the leave of absence of the harbour-master had been curtailed. I have a letter which states that the question of leave of absence had never been raised. Of course, in making this statement I am repeating information which has been given to me. There seems to be a feeling, whether right or wrong, that the harbour-master has not been fairly treated by the Harbour Commissioners, and there is also some doubt as to his position. The Lord Lieutenant has the appointment of the harbour-master, who cannot be dismissed without the sanction of the Lord Lieutenant, but, in the meantime, he performs his duty under the control of the Office of Works. If there is a feeling that an inquiry ought to be made, let it be made by the proper authorities, and I may

inform the noble Lord that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has promised that he will undertake that an inquiry shall be held if it is the wish of your Lordships. I hope the noble Lord will be satisfied with that assurance, and not press his motion.

***LORD CLONBROCK :** I should like to explain that in moving for a committee of inquiry I did not mean a committee of this House. I had hoped that the Government might see their way to appoint an impartial small Committee, comprising some nautical experts, to decide the question of the staff. The question of leave is not one of so great importance, but the harbour-master informed me that his leave had been reduced from five weeks to four, and it certainly seems curious that the Board should know nothing about it. He informed me that the reason given for the reduction was that the length of his leave had been made to correspond with that granted to other harbour-masters. I do not know how many harbour-masters have the misfortune to be under this board, but harbours certainly vary in size, and there cannot be another of such importance as Kingstown. Therefore the comparison between the leave given to the harbour-master at Kingstown and that given to the smaller harbour-masters is not a fair comparison. It also came to his knowledge that the leave of the harbour-master had been calculated on the scale of pay, and that he was held in the office to rank with a third-class clerk. This, however, was not stated directly to him. I am convinced that the owners of ships frequenting Kingstown harbour would be very apprehensive if they knew that the staff had been reduced to such an extent that the only experienced man concerned—the harbour-master—declared it to be insufficient, and especially so in times of emergency. I think a thorough inquiry should be held into the matter on public grounds, and if the noble Viscount will assure me that such an inquiry will be held I will not press my motion.

VISCOUNT CROSS : My Lords, I can only repeat that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has stated that, if it is desired by the House, an inquiry shall be made. With regard to the question of leave, I have a letter here, signed by Mr. Stevenson,

Viscount Cross.

in which he says that the question of leave of absence is entirely a new one.

Motion (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 174.)

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (CLAUSES) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Friday the 28th instant (*The Earl of Dudley*). (No. 175.)

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow (*The Lord President [D. Devonshire]*). (No. 176.)

House adjourned at five minutes past Five of the clock, till To-morrow half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 20th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GOOLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

SUNDERLAND CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 13) BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill to be considered To-morrow.

WAKEFIELD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

MANCHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

WOLVERHAMPTON TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

FYLDE WATER BOARD BILL [Lords].

MOSS SIDE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

WITHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

STRETFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

HASTINGS HARBOUR BILL [Lords].

OYSTERMOUTH RAILWAY OR TRAM-ROAD BILL [Lords].

LEIGH - ON - SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [Lords].

GREAT YARMOUTH WATER BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Petition from London and other places, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN.

Petition from Colne, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Petitions against;—From Sunderland, and Halifax ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.**AGRARIAN OUTRAGES (IRELAND.)**

Copy presented,—of Return for the quarter ended 30th June 1899 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE (GALWAY.)

Copy presented,—of Report of the President for the session 1898-9 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Copy presented,—of Order in Council of 14th July, 1899, entitled "The China, Japan, and Corea (Supreme Court) Order in Council, 1899" [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

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by the appointment of an additional lower grade clerk, of the establishment of the Trinity House [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Copy presented,—of Order in Council of 14th July, 1899, sanctioning an increase in the salary paid to Mr. George Napier M'Murdo, a clerk in the service of the Commissioners of Irish Lights [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

MALTA (POLITICAL CONDITION).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 8th June ; *Mr. M'Iver*] ; to lie upon the Table.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

Copy presented, of correspondence relating to the Bloemfontein Conference, 1899 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS.

Returns ordered, "(1) from each savings bank in England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the Channel Islands, containing, in columns, the names of the officers, their respective salaries, and other allowances, if any ; the amount of security each gives ; the annual expenses of management, inclusive of all payments and salaries, for the year ended the 20th day of November, 1898 ; the rate per centum per annum on the capital of the bank for the expenses of management ; the rate of interest paid to depositors on the various amounts of deposit, and the average rate of interest on all accounts ; the number of accounts remaining open ; the total amount owing to depositors ; the total amount invested with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt ; the balance in the hands of the Treasurer at the 20th day of November, 1898 ; the total amount of the separate Surplus Fund on the 20th day of November, 1898 ; other assets, including estimated value of bank premises, furniture, etc. ; the total assets ; the total amount of Government Stock standing to the credit of depositors ; the number and amount of annuities granted ; and the average cost of each transaction ; also the year in which business commenced in each bank, and the name of the day or days,

and the number of hours in the week, on which the banks are open for the deposit and withdrawal of moneys; including in such Return a list of all such savings banks as, under the provisions of the Act 26 Vic., c. 14, or otherwise, have been closed and have transferred their funds, or any part thereof, to the Post Office Savings Banks; showing, in each case, the number of such banks, as well as the number and amount of depositors' accounts so transferred, and the amount of compensation, if any, made to all or any of the officers of such banks respectively; and showing also the years in which such banks were respectively opened and closed, and the number and amount of their depositors' balances, and the number of days and hours in each week on which the same banks were open for public business at the close of the year next preceding the date of such closing; distinguishing the same, as in the form of the return, for each separate county, as well as collectively, for England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the Channel Islands, and for the United Kingdom; and (2) for the year ending the 20th day of November, 1898, showing the total number of depositors in trustee savings banks; the total number of deposits; the average sums paid in and drawn out; the total number of persons who have deposited in single sums the entire amount allowed to be deposited during the year (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 254, of Session 1898)."—(Sir John William MacLure.)

NORTH ATLANTIC WINTER FREEBOARD.

Return ordered, "of the Minutes of Evidence given before a Committee appointed to consider the operation of the North Atlantic winter freeboard as prescribed by the Load Line Tables, to examine the present mode of assigning freeboards to vessels of the turret-deck type, and to advise as to the extension of the present Load Line Tables for steam vessels not having spar or awning decks (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 126, Session 1899)."—(Mr. C. T. Ritchie.)

Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 283.]

QUESTIONS.

INSTRUCTION OF NAVAL OFFICERS IN STRATEGY.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty what provision is made for the instruction of naval officers in strategy: and what means are adopted to ascertain whether officers of the higher ranks have studied the subject.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): There is not now, nor has there ever been, an established school for the study of strategy by naval officers of the higher ranks; but the whole education of the naval officer from entry in the Service to the attainment of high command leads him to this study. The right hon. Member speaks of strategy only. Tactics, or the science of disposing naval forces in order for battle and of performing naval evolutions, are constantly taught in our Fleets and Squadrons.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Is no instruction given in strategy at all? Is there no professor of naval strategy?

MR. GOSCHEN: Naval officers, when they assume high commands, study this question; but there is no professor of naval strategy to teach them. I do not know whether such a gentleman exists.

CHIROPODY IN THE ARMY.

SIR J. COLOMB (Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, whether, during the forthcoming military manoeuvres in England and Ireland, any steps will be taken to employ chiropodists with the infantry brigades for the purpose of attending to soldiers' feet, and with a view to furnishing independent reports as to the shoeing of infantry, and to the expediency of establishing a permanent system of efficient regimental chiropodists for service with infantry battalions.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): This matter has been under the careful consideration of the military authorities. As an experiment, some men of the Royal Army Medical Corps were last year instructed in chiropody, and a class for a certain number of non-commissioned officers was subsequently

formed at Aldershot. The experiment was successful, and its extension is under consideration. But it would obviously be impossible to provide trained men for the manœuvres this year.

THE ESQUIMALT COMMAND—MAJOR GRANT.

SIR J. COLOMB: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, before conferring local rank on a junior officer of Royal Engineers serving in garrison at Esquimalt, thereby putting him over the head of his senior belonging to another arm of the Service, the Secretary of State for War was made aware of the fact that during the preceding period of nearly five years, dating from the establishment of the garrison, the command was held only for an interval of about one year by a Royal Engineer officer; and whether he adheres to his statement that the local rank in question was conferred because a Royal Engineer had heretofore been in command; and, if so, whether the Secretary of State for War proposes in future to exclude officers of other arms of the Service from command of garrisons at Esquimalt and elsewhere, by conferring local rank on junior Royal Engineer officers in such garrisons whenever it can be shown that a Royal Engineer officer has, by the accident of relative seniority, once previously held the command.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The length of time during which Lieutenant Colonel Muirhead commanded at Esquimalt in no way influenced the selection of Major Grant as his successor in that command. He was selected because it was considered desirable that the command should be held by an officer of Royal Engineers. There is no rule, and future cases will be judged on their merits.

SIR J. COLOMB: If it was decided that this was to be an Engineer's command, why was not an officer of superior rank chosen?

*MR. WYNDHAM: I have answered several questions on this subject. As the hon. and gallant Member knows, important works are in course of construction, and while that is so it is considered the command should be held by an officer of the Royal Engineers. That determination having been come to, we had to send an

officer of that corps. We have not many at our disposal at any time, but we chose the one we thought suited for the command and gave him local rank so as to make him senior at the place.

MARK IV. CARTRIDGE.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if any further experiments have been made with Mark IV. cartridge; and, if so, whether the result has been to cause any change in the manufacture.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Further experiments have been made, with the result that the few cases of "stripping" which have taken place are attributed to the softness of the metal of which the bullet is made, and to imperfect cleaning of the rifle. To remove all metallic fouling the double pull-through must be constantly employed. When this is done no difficulties arise. 620,000 rounds have been fired in testing the ammunition without a single accident, and, as I stated, this ammunition was used at the battle of Omdurman. A bullet of somewhat harder material is now being manufactured.

CANTEEN AND MESS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office if he has received a copy of a memorial addressed to General Sir Robert Biddulph, R.A., in reference to the contract for supplies to the Army Service Corps canteen at Gibraltar; whether the Captain King mentioned therein is an officer on the head-quarter staff of the Army for supply inspection; and, if so, whether he has received the sanction of his superiors at the War Office in canvassing business for the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society, Limited; and whether it was Captain King's duty to have made his report relative to the Army Service Corps canteen at Gibraltar to the Commander-in-Chief there, leaving it to his Excellency to take such steps as he might think necessary after investigating the report.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. J. POWELL WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): The only copy of the memorial received at the War Office is that forwarded by the hon. Member. The Captain King referred to in the memorial is an officer on the supply

inspection staff at Woolwich. He is not authorised to canvass for any particular source of supply, nor does he do so. Captain King made his report in duplicate, one copy going to the general commanding on the spot, the other to the War Office, so that either authority can take any steps considered necessary. The reports show that the memorialist has sold margarine, calling it butter, and that his prices generally were high, whilst the articles supplied were inferior in quality.

BARRAKUR IRON COMPANY'S AGREEMENT.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if his attention has been called to the paragraph on page 126 of East India (Progress and Condition), published 7th June, 1899, in which it is stated that the Barrakur Iron Company have agreed to supply the Indian Government with 10,000 tons of castings and pig iron yearly for 10 years; that the company is in a condition to increase their output from 30,000 to 50,000 tons a year when they see an outlet; and that the quality is uniform and equal to Middlesbrough iron; has his attention been called to a statement by the chairman of the company at its annual meeting in London, to the effect that, whatever may be the movements of markets and exchange, this iron has to be supplied under a reduction in price below the average of English prices, which practically amounts to a protective duty in favour of English or Continental iron; and is it the invariable practice of the Indian Government to treat all Indian manufacturers on absolutely equal terms with British or Continental manufacturers, as ordered by paragraph 28 of Resolution 185, January, 1883; and, if not, will he explain on what grounds.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): My right hon. friend the Secretary for India has requested me to answer this question in his absence. In 1896 the Government of India, being desirous of assisting the Barrakur Iron Company, offered to place with them a contract for the supply of 10,000 tons of iron annually at a price 5 per cent. below that at which materials of similar quality could then be obtained from England, the contract to be in force for ten years. This offer was gratefully accepted by the company, as the terms

were such as to give them at that time a fair margin of profit, and the certainty of steady employment for the next ten years. I am not aware whether the agreement has so far turned out advantageously for the company or not, but I consider that it was a reasonable and proper agreement for the Government of India to make at the time when they made it; and, as I have said, it was then regarded by the company as a very acceptable arrangement.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS OF INDIA.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for India, whether he can state the relative number of native-born and British-born subjects holding seats upon the Governor General's Executive Council in India, the Viceroy's Council when it meets for purposes of legislation, and the various legislative councils in provinces which meet under the presidency of governors and lieutenant-governors; whether these native-born members are elected direct by the people or are nominated by the Government; and if he can see his way to introduce legislation with the object of making all the legislative councils of India elective, and of extending a franchise for that purpose to all British subjects, native or foreign born, who are taxed for the necessities of Indian Government.

MR. BRODRICK (for Lord G. HAMILTON): All the seven members of the Governor-General's Executive Council are British born subjects. Of the Legislative Council, which at present numbers twenty-one members, seven are natives of India. In the Madras Legislative Council ten out of twenty-three members are natives of India, in Bombay twelve out of twenty-three, in Bengal ten out of nineteen, in the N.W.P. and Oudh Council six out of fifteen, in the Punjab four out of nine, and in Burma two out of nine. All the members of these councils are nominated by the Government, but in every case except those of Burma and the Punjab a proportion of the seats is filled as a matter of practice on the recommendation of certain public bodies. I cannot say that I am prepared to introduce legislation for the purpose of having all the various Indian Councils elected by universal suffrage.

INDIAN SECTION OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAG-GREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Report of the working of the Indian section of the Imperial Institute for the year ending 31st March last is prepared and submitted to him ; whether that Report, as well as those for the preceding two years, embodies the results obtained in the scientific investigations of selected natural products from India ; and whether in view of the importance of the industrial utilisation of those results and of promoting manufacture from the raw products of India, he will place those Reports upon the Table of the House.

MR. BRODRICK (for Lord G. HAMILTON) : The Report for 1898-9 has been received ; it contains accounts of scientific investigations of Indian products, as do also the two preceding Reports ; 120 copies of each Report have been sent to the Government of India. The Secretary of State will be glad to lay copies of the three Reports on the Table on my hon. friend's moving for them ; but he would in that case propose that only those parts which are likely to be of permanent interest should be reprinted.

PUNJAB FRONTIER—DISARMAMENT OF PATHANS.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India when the order for the partial disarmament of the Pathans on the Punjab Frontier came into operation ; what is the area to which it applies ; and, whether any robberies of arms from and murderous assaults upon Her Majesty's troops within the area affected have taken place since the order became operative.

MR. BRODRICK (for Lord G. HAMILTON) : On the 6th of May, 1899, the Government of the Punjab, with the sanction of the Government of India, extended Section 15 of the Arms Act XI., 1878, to the Hazara, Peshawur, and Kohat Districts. By this extension no person can have in his possession arms except under a licence. The area of the three districts is 8,206 square miles. I have received no information on the subject of the third question.

{COMMONS}

CAMP FOLLOWERS IN INDIAN CAMPAIGNS.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether it has been brought to his notice that the camp followers of the different regiments engaged in recent campaigns on the Indian frontier were called upon to give up the warm clothing supplied to them at the commencement of the operations ; and whether, seeing that these garments when collected and sold did not realise more than a few pence each, he will consider the advisability in the future of allowing the wearers to become the owners of the garments.

MR. BRODRICK (for Lord G. HAMILTON) : No information in regard to the disposal of the extra clothing issued to followers in the recent campaigns on the North-West frontier of India has been received by me, but a reference on the subject will be made to the Government of India.

EGYPTIAN LIGHTHOUSES.

SIR T. SUTHERLAND (Greenock) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state approximately the present annual nett revenue of the Egyptian lighthouses after allowing for current expenditure, and also the total amount of the balance now accumulated to the credit of this fund ; and, what prospect there may be of the balance thus obtained being devoted to the construction at an early date of the long desired lighthouses for the southern portion of the Red Sea.

MR. BRODRICK : The average annual nett income of the Egyptian Lighthouse Administration, after deducting expenditure, amounts to £45,000 Egyptian. The sum accumulated for the construction of Red Sea lights now amounts to £73,000 Egyptian. As I stated on the 11th ultimo, in answer to a question in this House, the Porte has now arranged for the construction of the four most needed lights in the Red Sea, and under these circumstances the eventual destination of the sum accumulated will remain a matter for future consideration.

BRITISH CONSUL AT CAGLIARI.

MR. MOON (St. Paneras, N.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the post of British Consul at Cagliari has

been recently filled by the appointment of an Italian subject, and whether, amongst the applicants for the post, there was an Englishman who had been for some years an officer in one of Her Majesty's regiments, has a considerable knowledge of Cagliari and of the Island of Sardinia, and was otherwise well qualified.

MR. BRODRICK : The Consulate at Cagliari, an unsalaried appointment, was recently conferred upon Mr. R. H. Pernis, on the recommendation of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome; and on the receipt of a memorial in his favour signed by British residents and representatives of British firms in Sardinia, Mr. Pernis was appointed Vice-Consul in 1892, and was reported as well qualified for the post of Consul. An application (no doubt from the gentleman alluded to in the question), not for the Consulate, but for the post of Vice-Consul, had reached the Foreign Office through the Board of Trade, to whom it was addressed. The Vice-Consulate was not at the time vacant, and the applicant was so informed. He subsequently wrote to say that he had applied for the Vice-Consulate by inadvertence, and that he was a candidate for the Consulship. The latter had, however, in the meantime already been conferred on Mr. Pernis.

THE WAIMA INCIDENT.

MR. BILL (Staffordshire, Leek) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government have come to any decision on the question of giving some temporary pecuniary assistance to the families of the British officers and men killed at Waima in December, 1893, pending the result of the arbitration proceedings with the French Government, in accordance with the answers given in this House by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 6th May, 1898, and by the late Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on the 28th June and 28th July of the same year.

MR. HEDDERWICK : I beg at the same time to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of a settlement by France, Her Majesty's Government have yet considered the question of making some advance to the surviving relatives of the officers and men who lost their lives at Waima some five years ago.

MR. BRODRICK : Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that the French Government will consent to refer this matter to arbitration. When this consent has been obtained they will consider the question of an advance to the survivors. Meanwhile, in considering these claims Her Majesty's Government cannot forget that the relatives of officers killed in action with an enemy suffer equally with the relatives of these officers, and have no claim to compensation beyond the pensions provided in the warrants, to which the relatives of these officers are equally entitled.

BURMESE EXTENSION RAILWAY.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) : I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government have yet received any official report in reference to the survey of the projected Burmese Extension Railway, to connect the Burmese Railway when it reaches the Chinese frontier with the capital of Yunnan; and, if so, whether he will indicate the nature of the report.

MR. BRODRICK : The reports of the officers engaged on the recent survey will be addressed to the Yunnan Company, by whom they were employed. Most of them have now, I understand, either returned or are on their way home, and until their final reports are received the company will not be in a position to come to a definite opinion in regard to the trace of such a railway.

BRITISH INDIANS IN NATAL.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that there are 50,000 British subjects from India in the Colony of Natal who are denied the franchise and have no share in the government of the colony; whether the children of these people are to a large extent excluded from the Government schools; and whether he has taken, or proposes to take, any steps to insist on the franchise being granted in Natal to these British subjects.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) : (1) By the law of Natal (No. 8 of 1896) natives of countries which have not possessed elective representative institutions founded on the Parliamentary franchise are not entitled to the franchise unless they obtain an

order from the Governor in Council exempting them from the operation of the Act, and British Indians are embraced in this category. (2) There is no rule, I understand, excluding Indians from Government schools. The Government supports special schools for Indians in centres where there is any considerable population. (3) The answer is in the negative.

MR. DAVITT : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether British subjects from India settling in Natal are as such entitled to the franchise and are allowed to exercise it ; if he can state approximately the proportion of the 50,000 Indian British subjects in the colony who are thus privileged ; whether any provision is made by the laws of the colony for the education of these subjects in their own language ; and if he can state how much of the taxes, to which these people contribute, is devoted to this purpose.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : (1) I have already given the answer in reply to the question put to me by the hon. Member for Mayo, E. (2) I am not aware of the exact number, but it is small. (3) I believe not, and I am not aware of any demand for such instruction of Indians, but in the special schools for Indian children, numbering about thirty, which receive grants from the Government, a number of Indian teachers are employed. (4) The Government grant-in-aid of Indian schools for the last financial year was £2,200.

ASIATIC LABOUR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

MR. DAVITT : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been directed to the probable injury to white labour interests in the mining industry of British Columbia through the disallowance, for Imperial reasons, of the law passed by the Legislature of that colony prohibiting the introduction of Asiatic labour ; whether this Asiatic labour is in any sense free labour ; and, whether, as the action of the Legislature of British Columbia in trying to safeguard the working population of the colony from labour competition has been arrested in the interests of an Imperial policy, some steps will be taken to give protection to the white wage-earning

classes of this colony against too large an influx of cheap Asiatic workers.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : The laws of British Columbia prohibiting the employment of Japanese labourers, which have been recently disallowed, were no doubt enacted with the object of preventing competition with white labourers by an excessive influx of Japanese labour. So far as I know Japanese labour in British Columbia is in every sense free. Her Majesty's Government have pointed out that if there is any real prospect of a large influx of Japanese labourers into Canada the question might be dealt with by legislation of the Dominion Parliament, similar to that which has been adopted in Natal and in some of the Australian Colonies.

SIERRA LEONE TROUBLES.

MR. HEDDERWICK : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies when the Report of the High Commissioner, Sir David Chalmers, upon the troubles in the hinterland of Sierra Leone will be in the hands of Members.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : The Papers have been laid, and I am informed that the printers will deliver the Report in the course of next week.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether there is official confirmation for the statement that on Tuesday last the Volksraad of the South African Republic adopted, with President Kruger's approval, a seven years' prospective and retrospective franchise for Uitlanders ; and whether he has any statement to make to the House.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : Yesterday I received the following telegram from Sir A. Milner :

" 19th July. British Agent South African Republic reports Article IV. of Franchise Law passed by twenty-two votes to five with following alterations in Clause 1, viz., the words 'at least seven' are substituted for 'nine' and the words from 'or five years' to end of clause are deleted. This has effect of making residential qualification for franchise seven years retrospective."

I have no official information as to redistribution, but it has been stated that the Government of the South African

Republic proposes to give seven new seats to the districts chiefly inhabited by aliens. If this report is confirmed, this important change in the proposals of President Kruger, coupled with previous amendments, leads the Government to hope that the new law may prove to be a basis of settlement on the lines laid down by Sir A. Milner at the Bloemfontein Conference. They observe, however, that the Volksraad have still retained a number of conditions which might be so interpreted as to preclude those otherwise qualified from acquiring the franchise and might therefore be used to take away with one hand what has been given with the other. The provision that the alien desirous of burghership shall produce a certificate of continuous registration during the period required for naturalisation is an instance of this, for it has been stated that the law of registration has been allowed to fall into desuetude and that but few aliens, however long resident in the country, have been continuously registered. It would also be easy by subsequent legislation to alter the whole character of the concessions now made, but Her Majesty's Government feel assured that the President, having accepted the principle for which they have contended, will be prepared to reconsider any detail of his schemes which can be shown to be a possible hindrance to the full accomplishment of the object in view and that he will not allow them to be nullified or reduced in value by any subsequent alterations of the law or acts of administration. I may add that I received last night the following telegram from the Governor of Natal :

"19th July. Resolution proposed to-day in Assembly by Baynes, seconded by Escombe : Begins : Legislative Assembly Natal desires to express its sympathy with and approval of action of British Government in its endeavour to secure equal rights and privileges for all Europeans in South Africa whereby peace, prosperity, and termination of racial animosity in this country can alone be assured. Ends : Prime Minister, who had to be carried to Assembly from his bed, to which he has been confined by result of an accident for a fortnight, strongly supported on behalf of Government. Resolution carried unanimously amidst cheers."

MR. DAVITT: May I ask when additional Papers will be presented?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The Bloemfontein Papers are laid on the Table to-day.

DUBLIN EXCISE OFFICERS.

MR. D. SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Louth, I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer will he explain why, notwithstanding the assurance given by him on the 16th March last that the Board of Inland Revenue had no intention of replacing first-class officers in Dublin excise warehouses by assistants, on the first vacancy that occurred, a first-class officer in Dublin 18th Station has been replaced by an assistant; and was the recent appointment of a first-class officer to that station subsequently cancelled by the Board of Inland Revenue.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): The facts as stated in the question are correct, but the answer given on the 16th of March last must have been misunderstood. It had reference to a scheme by which it was proposed to abolish first-class officers in Dublin, and supply their places with assistants of Excise. After consideration, this scheme was rejected. It would be quite impossible for the Board to give an undertaking not to substitute junior for senior officers, or *vice versa*, in Dublin or elsewhere, as occasion requires. This is constantly being done to meet the exigencies of the service or the fluctuating conditions of trade.

AUSTRALIAN SOVEREIGNS AT THE MINT.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the suggestion of the Sydney bankers, referred to at page 28 of the recently published Annual Report of the Master of the Mint, that a gold trade-ingot should be issued from the Royal Mint in order to stop the wasteful practice of melting down Australian coined sovereigns, has yet been carried into effect.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I am awaiting reports which have been called for from the branch mints in Australia before coming to a decision upon the subject of this suggestion.

LIPROT CHARITY, RUNCORN.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): I beg to ask the Member for the Thirsk and Malton Division as representing the Charity Commission

whether he will request the trustees of the Liptrot Charity in the township of Runcorn, No. 990, in the books of the Charity Commissioners to fulfil their statutory duty by sending copies of their three last yearly statements of accounts to the Urban District Council of Runcorn.

THE PARLIAMENTARY CHARITY COMMISSIONER (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) : The statutory obligation of the trustees of the Liptrot Charity in respect of rendering accounts to local authorities is confined, as regards non-ecclesiastical charities, to annually laying accounts before the parish meeting of any rural parish affected by those accounts. In the case of ecclesiastical charities these accounts are to be rendered to the vestry. The Runcorn Urban District Council have obtained under Section 33 (1) of the Local Government Act, 1894, the powers of the parish council; but, inasmuch as those powers do not include the powers of a parish meeting, the Urban District Council have not acquired the right of requiring accounts from the trustees of the charity. Copies of the accounts of the charity can be obtained by the Urban District Council from the office of the Charity Commissioners on payment of the charge of copying.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

MR. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether in view of the fact that in the great majority of accidents included under the Act of 1897 compensation is being paid by employers without recourse to a county court or arbitrator, and that it consequently goes unrecorded, he will consider if it may be possible to obtain through the factory inspectors, who already receive notice of all serious accidents, a quarterly or annual Return from employers of the total sums so paid, and the duration of each such case of accident for statistical purposes.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) : I am afraid that this suggestion cannot be carried out satisfactorily. An attempt to collect the statistics indicated would seriously impede the work of the factory inspectors, and as experience shows that

Returns of this kind cannot be obtained from employers unless they are required by law to make them, it would at the same time fail to secure complete or accurate results. I entirely agree with the object of my hon. friend.

TODMORDEN BOYS' CONVICTION.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a sentence passed on the 11th instant by the justices sitting at Todmorden upon two youths of one calendar month's imprisonment with hard labour, without the option of a fine, upon a conviction for stealing gooseberries worth fourpence; whether his attention has also been called to the statement of the police superintendent concerned in the case that nothing was previously known against the accused; and, whether, having regard to the circumstances of the case, he will order the immediate release of the prisoners.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY : I have made inquiries into this case. There seems to be nothing known against the prisoners previously; but as they are seventeen years of age, and the offence of robbing gardens appears to have been prevalent in the neighbourhood, I am not prepared to order their immediate release. I will, however, consider whether a substantial reduction may not be made on account of the facts above stated.

FATALITY AT CAMMELL'S WORKS. SHEFFIELD.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of George Burnam, who recently received fatal injuries while shifting a bogie along some rails at Messrs. Cammell's works, Sheffield; and, whether, in view of the rider added by the coroner's jury to their verdict of accidental death, which was to the effect that there was not sufficient room at the sides of the line for the men to work in safety, he will consider the advisability of issuing at an early date special rules embodying the recommendations of the Dangerous Trades Committee, which apply to the use of locomotives in factories.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I am making inquiries into the case referred to. As regards the second paragraph of the question, the dangers attending the use of locomotives in factories seem to be closely connected with the questions which have been referred to the Royal Commission on Accidents to the Servants of Railway Companies and Truck Owners, and I must await the Report of the Commission before deciding as to the issue of special rules on the subject. In the meantime the factory inspectors will do their best to secure improvement of the conditions where possible.

PATERSON v. THE DONEGAL FISHING COMPANY.

MR. TENNANT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can yet state the grounds upon which the Crown Solicitor failed to give the statutory notice to the respondents in the recent appeal case in Dublin, Paterson *v.* the Donegal Fishing Company.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I am informed that the failure to give the statutory notice was due to regrettable neglect to carry out instructions.

IRISH HISTORY IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he can see his way to recommend the teaching of Irish history in the public schools of Scotland in addition to that of English and Scotch history; and, if not in all public schools, in those mainly attended by the children of Irish parentage.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The choice of the historical subject to be taught in the schools is primarily a matter for the consideration of the managers. The Department is ready to consider any course of teaching proposed, but is not prepared to make antecedently a recommendation in the direction suggested.

THE OSPREY.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that by the order of Mr. Fellowes-Górdon, of Knockespock, an osprey, a bird of great rarity and said to have only two breeding places in Scotland,

was shot recently, in contravention of the Wild Birds Act; that, upon a prosecution being instituted before the Aberdeen Sheriff Court, the gamekeeper, who was found guilty, was fined £1, whilst the dead osprey is worth £20 or £25 as a specimen; and whether, in view of the rarity of these birds, the Government can see its way to increase the penalty for their destruction.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am aware of the case referred to by the hon. Member in the first paragraph of his question, and the whole occurrence was a very regrettable one on the part of people who might have been expected to know better. I am not aware whether the value of the bird is so high as stated by the hon. Member, but if acts of this class are persisted in, the Secretary for Scotland thinks there will be a strong case for proposing legislation with the object of increasing the penalty.

AN HON. MEMBER: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman suggest to the magistrates the desirability of inflicting as severe penalties as possible in these cases?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I cannot answer for the moment, but I think the maximum penalty under the Act is a very low one.

GENERAL LIGHTHOUSE FUND.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he proposes to comply with Section 679 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and with Section 1 (c) of the Merchant Shipping Mercantile Marine Fund Act of 1898, by laying before both Houses of Parliament, as soon after the meeting of Parliament in every year as may be, the accounts of the recently-created General Lighthouse Fund, which came into existence on 1st April of the present year; if so, in what form, and at what period of each year, does he propose to lay these accounts before this House; whether any estimate of the receipts and expenditure of the new General Light-house Fund for the year 1899-1900 will be laid before this House; if not, whether he can state approximately what the total receipts and expenditure of this fund are estimated to be for the year 1899-1900; and, whether any, and, if so, what opportunity will be afforded to this House

of exercising any direct control over the application or administration of this fund.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) : Accounts of the General Lighthouse Fund will be audited and laid before both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the Acts referred to by the hon. Member. They will be presented in a similar form to that used for the statement of the Mercantile Marine Fund Accounts, which of recent years have been included in the Appropriation Accounts. They will be presented as soon as may be after the accounts are closed, which cannot be till November in each year. No estimate of receipts and expenditure of the fund will be laid before the House, and it is impossible at present to state with any degree of accuracy what the receipts and expenditure of this fund will be for the year 1899-1900. There is no legislative provision for the control by Parliament of this fund, which, as the hon. Member is aware, does not contain any money provided by Parliament. But I shall always be glad to supply any information on the subject which the House or any hon. Member may desire.

COCKETT TUNNEL.

MR. RANDELL (Glamorgan, Gower) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the accident which occurred on the Great Western main line between the Landore and Cockett Stations in June last, whereby a portion of the Cockett Tunnel fell through just after a New Milford excursion train had passed ; whether he is aware that mines had been worked underneath the tunnel for some time previously ; that the water was being, and is now, pumped from the said workings, and that further subsidence is probable ; whether an inquiry into the circumstances of the case has been made by the Board of Trade, and what was the result of such inquiry ; and, whether any and, if so, what precautions by way of examination of the said tunnel are being, or will be, made by the Board of Trade for securing the safety of the travelling public and the railway servants before the tunnel will again be used for traffic.

MR. RITCHIE : The inspecting officer appointed to inquire into the causes of this accident has not yet made his Report to the Board of Trade, and his attention shall be directed to the hon. Member's question.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydfil) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he can state the amount to be deducted in respect of the Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill from the sums receivable on account of the Estate Duty Grant by the County of Glamorganshire, and the county boroughs of Cardiff and Swansea, respectively ; and if he can state approximately the amount of relief that will be paid to the incumbents of benefices within such county and county borough areas.

***THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby) : The share of the county and county boroughs named in a sum of £87,000 distributed in the proportion of what are known as the "discontinued grants" would be £799, £260, and £198, respectively. The cost of the relief given to the clerical owners of Tithe Rent-Charge in the County of Glamorganshire as a whole is estimated to amount to between £600 and £700.

WATERING TROUGH FOR HORSES.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been called to the statement made by the chairman of the Improved Cab Company at a meeting of shareholders on the 14th instant, in which he stated that throughout the year the general health and working condition of the company's horses have been most satisfactory, that there had been an entire absence of contagious disease in the stud, which it is believed was largely due to precautionary measures adopted about five years ago when glanders was epidemic in London. Strict orders were then issued prohibiting drivers from watering the company's horses at public watering troughs, and an inspector was appointed to watch the troughs and prevent drivers from evading the rule, that glanders in London would be almost exterminated if these public drinking troughs were done away with and re-

placed by taps, and that this had been stated by Professor Pritchard and other authorities over and over again ; and whether the Board of Agriculture have any reason to believe in the agency of public drinking troughs in disseminating diseases.

*MR. LONG : I have seen the statement to which the hon. Baronet refers. So far as the prevention of the spread of glanders is concerned, our view is that standpipes afford a safer means of watering horses than troughs as they are usually constructed, but it is desirable that drivers should carry their own pails. I am not prepared, however, to say that the disadvantages of troughs outweigh their advantages.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) : Has any case of glanders ever been traced to infection from water-troughs ?

MR. GIBSON BOWLES : Is not the water in these troughs almost always running water ?

*MR. LONG : I believe that is so. As to the question of the hon. Member for Epping, I should not like to say that no cases have ever been traced to this source of infection, and I therefore gave the answer I did to the hon. Baronet.

LORD BROUGHAM'S EVIDENCE ACT.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) : I beg to ask Mr. Solicitor-General whether he is aware that although certain provisions of the Statute 14 and 15 Vic., c. 99 (Lord Brougham's Evidence Act) are still un-repealed and in force, a Government Department has recently refused to give effect to s. 14 of that Act (which affords a simple means whereby persons desirous of obtaining certified copies or extracts from public records may do so on payment of a prescribed fee) thereby defeating the intentions of the Legislature in passing the Act : and whether, if a specific case of refusal be brought to his notice, he will be prepared to draw the attention of the Department in question to the provisions of the Statute, with a view to preventing any further breach thereof.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) : I understand from a private communication from the hon. Member that the question relates

to the general entry book kept by the officers of Excise for each station. The statutory mode of proof of these entries is provided by s. 12 of the Revenue Act, 1867, and the proviso at the end of the section on which I understand that the hon. Member relies applies only to entries made before the passing of the Act, and refers apparently to s. 19 of the Excise Management Act, 1827. The view of the Department has always been that the Statute referred to in the question has no application to these entries, but they are about to take the opinion of the law officers on the point, by which they will be guided in the future.

VACCINATION OF SCHOOL TEACHERS.

MR. MELLOR (Yorkshire, West Riding, Sowerby) : I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether his attention has been called to the case of a young girl named Frances H. Richardson, who applied for the position of assistant mistress in a Board school at Sowerby Bridge, and who was rejected by order of the Education Department on the ground that she was not vaccinated ; whether the Department was then aware that her father had obtained a certificate dispensing with vaccination for his children ; and whether, in his daughter's case, the objection will now be removed.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) : The answer to paragraph 1 is in the affirmative, to paragraphs 2 and 3 in the negative. The Committee of Council are advised that the vaccination of teachers is desirable in the interests of children attending the schools.

IRISH COUNTY COURT ACTS.

MR. D. SULLIVAN : On behalf of the hon. Member for North Louth I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if a Return, by clerks of the peace and clerks of the Crown and peace in Ireland, could be given of affidavits filed in their several offices under the default sections of the County Courts Acts, stating the number made respectively in places situate in England, Ireland, and Scotland, and abroad showing the number of cases in each county in which decrees were made for the amounts sought to be recovered, or part thereof ; also in how many cases

defences were entered and dismissed granted.

THE ATTORNEY -GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) : No objection will be offered to the Return in question if the hon. and learned Member will move for it in the usual way. In order, however, to facilitate the preparation of the Return I would suggest that the period to be covered by it should be one of, say, five years.

IRISH FOOD INSPECTORS.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) : I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether his attention has been directed to a prosecution for milk adulteration recently brought by a local food inspector before the Petty Sessions at Castle Martyr, County Cork, and dismissed on the ground that under the 115th section of the Local Government Act, 1898, the office of food inspector was not included in the list of public offices which were by that section transferable to the county councils ; and whether steps will be taken so to define the position of the food inspectors as to prevent the possibility of similar abortive proceedings.

MR. ATKINSON : My attention has been called to the matter referred to. The court was, in my opinion, in error in its construction both of the Food and Drugs Act, 1875, and of the Local Government Act, 1898, in assuming first that under the first statute only an inspector duly appointed can prosecute the person who sells to him adulterated milk ; and secondly, in assuming that under the second statute this particular inspector was not an officer transferred to the county council. No legislation is necessary on the subject. The county council can remove all doubt, if any is entertained, by re-appointing as inspector the member of the Constabulary force who has hitherto acted in that capacity.

CAPTAIN DONELAN : In view of the uncertainty which seems to exist in regard to this matter, will the right hon. Gentleman kindly have the information he has just given conveyed to the various petty session courts ?

MR. ATKINSON : There is no uncertainty. If the local magistrates had only concurred with the resident magistrate

who correctly instructed them on the law this difficulty would not have occurred.

BELFAST POLICE PROSECUTION.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to the case of Alexander Hopkins, Wesley Street, Belfast, who summoned two constables named Downes and O'Donnell for assaulting him on 3rd June ; whether he is aware that on a cross case, tried also on the 6th July, brought by the constables against Hopkins, two Roman Catholic magistrates, Messrs. John Burke and Charles M'Lorinan, refused to believe evidence given in favour of Hopkins, who is a member of the Salvation Army, of excellent character, and sentenced him to a fine of 20s. and costs, declining to allow an appeal ; and whether a memorial has been presented to the Lord Lieutenant, praying for a re-hearing of the case, and what has been the decision of his Excellency.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) : My attention had not previously been drawn to this case, the facts of which, I am informed, are substantially as stated, except that I am not aware that the magistrates refused to believe the evidence given in favour of Hopkins. The summonses against the two constables were dismissed on their merits, and there were no witnesses examined for Hopkins except as to general character. The constables denied on oath that they assaulted Hopkins, or saw anyone assaulting him. A woman who was with him on the occasion swore, however, that she assaulted and struck him in the face. As regards the third paragraph, it is not in the power of the Lord Lieutenant to direct a re-hearing of the case, but a memorial, if received, in favour of a remission of the fine will of course be considered in the usual way.

MR. DILLON : Was not the summons in this case one for indecent behaviour in the streets, and was it not issued under the Borough Act ? Was not the man discovered by the police in company with a woman in a low quarter of the city, and was not the police testimony confirmed by the woman's own statement ? Is it not the fact that under the Act Hopkins had a right of appeal up till the 13th July, and did not act upon it ?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : As to the last question, I cannot say, but the facts are as stated by the hon. Gentleman.

MR. YOUNG (Cavan, E.) : Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that these are two of the most respectable —

*MR. SPEAKER : Order, order ! The question on the Paper has been fully answered, and also the supplementary question.

MR. DAVITT : On a point of order, is it in accordance with the usual practice of this House to make reference to the religious persuasion of magistrates on questions pertaining to their administration of the law ?

*MR. SPEAKER : Such questions are sometimes asked, and I think it is unfortunate that they should be asked.

MARYBOROUGH PRISON WORKS.

MR. FLYNN : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the stone-cutters employed on the building works at Maryborough Prison have been locked out by the contractor for refusal to work more than nine and a-half hours per diem, which is the standard time for the country ; can he say whether the fair wage resolution of the House of Commons was considered in the conditions of contract ; and what action, if any, the Prisons Board will take in the matter.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : I am informed that there has been no lock-out as stated in the first paragraph, but that the stone-cutters, having demanded a reduction in the working hours, which was refused by the contractor, the men ceased work on the 6th instant. Some of them, however, have since resumed work on the old terms—namely, ten and a-half hours per day for five days of the week and seven and a-quarter hours on Saturday ; that is to say, fifty-nine and three-quarter hours in all. I understand that the time referred to as “the standard time for the country” has never been adopted in this district. The resolution referred to in the second paragraph was embodied in the specification in connection with the contract. The General Prisons Board do not, under the circumstances, propose to take any action in the matter.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, can he see his way to introduce a Bill to remove the doubts and inconsistencies of the Irish Local Government Act, in the same manner as is now being done for another measure in the improvement of Land Bill.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : I am not aware what are the doubts and inconsistencies to which the hon. Member refers, but I shall be happy to consider any statement in writing which he may be good enough to forward to me on the subject.

THE SERVICE FRANCHISE BILL.

SIR CHARLES DILKE : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is intended by the Government to give Government time in the present session to the Service Franchise Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) : The principles which ought to underlie the “starring” of Private Members’ Bills at this time of the session are very simple, and really it depends on the condition of Government business. At this time of the year it is always felt to be a hardship that, when we suspend the 12 o’clock rule, all Private Members’ privileges are abrogated, and that even the most uncontentious Bill cannot pass. The practice of “starring” is intended to remedy that difficulty, and I think it should be confined to the purpose for which it was originally devised. Therefore, although I am myself in hearty sympathy with the Bill to which the right hon. Baronet refers, and although it has reached an advanced stage in its Parliamentary history, I think it would be an evil precedent, and one capable of great abuse in the future, if I were to yield to my natural inclination and give Government time to the further discussion of the Bill. In these circumstances I shall not be able to “star” the Bill. I propose to adhere resolutely to the precedents which have been set, and which ought to govern all leaders of the House in dealing with this question.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the

Treasury whether, before the Third Reading of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill is taken, he will, in view of the important alterations on the Report stage, have the Bill reprinted, and follow the precedent of 1897 in the case of the Workmen's Compensation Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It has not been the practice to reprint a Bill before the Third Reading, although there have, I think, been precedents for doing so in the cases of the Home Rule Bill and the Workmen's Compensation Bill. I do not think it is desirable to depart from the usual course unless strong reason is shown or a demand is made for it by those who have a right to speak for the Opposition.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in the Report Stage the Bill was considerably modified? Several new clauses were put in, and we really do not know exactly the proposals of the Bill.

MR. COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin): Do not the same printers reprint the Bill for the House of Lords? Could not the reprinting be expedited so as to enable it to be done before the Third Reading in this House? It would not cost much.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I did not base my answer on the question of expense, although the printing of 1,200 additional copies would involve some slight increase on the Estimates. I said I thought it would not be convenient to depart from the usual practice, and that it would be an innovation not desirable in the interests of public business. It is true a great many alterations were made in the Bill on the Report Stage, but I understand that the alterations affecting the principle and machinery of the Bill were made in Committee.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do think that this case is somewhat exceptional, for the reason that on the Report Stage a long amendment, covering more than a page, was proposed by the Lord Advocate and accepted, and it really altered the fundamental constitution of the principle of the Bill.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Might not a different practice be applied in such a case as this, where the Report Stage was really the Committee Stage, and the Third

Reading practically becomes a Second Reading?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot express agreement with the strange version of Parliamentary procedure which my hon. friend has given in regard to this Bill, which was most thoroughly dealt with in the Committee Stage. As I promised in my reply to the question that if the Leader of the Opposition thought the matter of sufficient importance for him to intervene I would differentiate this case from ordinary cases, I will have the Bill printed, but I hope that that will not become a general practice.

THE ESTIMATES.

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when the Supplementary Estimates will be laid upon the Table, and when they will be discussed; and are there to be Supplementary Estimates for the Army and Navy as well as for the Civil Service.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Estimates will be laid on the table on Monday or Tuesday next. I think that no Supplementary Estimates for the Navy or Army will be included.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Can the right hon. Gentleman make any statement as to business next week?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It will depend a good deal upon to-night. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will defer his question till to-morrow.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Or as to Friday week?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is a question which I should be reluctant to answer now. It partly depends on the views of the Colonial Secretary, which he is not yet, probably, in a position to give me.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. DILLON: What Bills do the Government propose to proceed with to-night, if they get through the Tithe Rent-charge Bill and the Food and Drugs Bill in good time?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not propose, after the Tithe Rent-charge Bill and the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, to take any Bill this evening likely to lead to

any prolonged controversy. Neither the Niger Company Bill nor the Colonial Loans Bill will be taken.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) : Will the Board of Education Bill be taken this week ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : Not this week.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 284.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Committee to be printed. [No. 284.]

Bill, as amended in the Standing Committee, to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 280.]

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Reported from the Select Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

POLICE AND SANITARY REGULATIONS BILLS.

Special Report brought up, and read.

Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 285.]

Minutes of Proceedings to be printed. [No. 285.]

HOUSES OF LORDS AND COMMONS PERMANENT STAFF.

Report from the Joint Committee, with Minutes of Evidence, brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 286.]

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN) BILL [Lords].

Read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 281.]

POOR LAW ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [Lords].

Read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 282.]

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

As Amended, on consideration, to be printed. [Bill 279.]

CLYDE NAVIGATION BILL [Lords].

RENFREW BURGH AND HARBOUR EXTENSION BILLS [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments ; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

AGED DESERVING POOR.

Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on the Cottage Homes Bill of the present Session be referred to the Select Committee on Aged Deserving Poor.—(Mr. Chaplin.)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL,

Without Amendment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 9) BILL.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY BILL.

FISHGUARD AND ROSSLARE RAILWAYS AND HARBOURS BILL.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

With Amendments.

Amendments to Amendments to—

SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

Without Amendment.

Amendments to—

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (PILOTAGE) BILL [Lords].

FURNESS RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

GLASGOW CORPORATION (TRAMWAYS, &c.) BILL [Lords].

KIRKCALDY CORPORATION AND TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

Without Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to give powers to the executive committee of the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum to invest trust funds in certain securities." [Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum Bill [Lords].

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the construction of a tram-road in and near to Southport; and for other purposes." [Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords].

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 9) BILL.

Lords' Amendments to be considered To-morrow.

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAM-ROAD BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE AT KHARTOUM BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 283.]

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS).

Bill to amend the law with respect to Customs Duties in the Isle of Man, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL.

"To amend the law with respect to Customs Duties in the Isle of Man," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 284.]

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

THIRD READING.

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

*MR. SPEAKER called on Mr. Lambert who had an Amendment: "To read the Bill this day three months."

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): On a point of order, I have an Amendment on the Paper to recommit the Bill in respect of Clause 1. Can I move that Amendment?

*MR. SPEAKER: There is no rule to that effect, otherwise any hon. Member might, by putting down such a notice, obtain precedence over other hon. Members.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Have I the right to intervene with it in the discussion on the Third Reading?

*MR. SPEAKER: Not if the hon. Member for the South Molton Division moves his Amendment.

MR. LABOUCHERE: When shall I be in order?

MR. SPEAKER: Not this year.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): May I ask you, Sir, whether the Bill has complied with Standing Order No. 45, and what is the general practice of the House in cases where attention has been drawn to non-compliance with the Standing Orders?

*MR. SPEAKER: I think it is enough for me to say that the objection, whatever it is worth, should have been taken before the Second Reading. No objection can be taken now.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): In rising to move the rejection of this Bill, I wish to point out that it is a measure which proposes to add a fresh endowment to the Church of England. A good deal has happened since it was introduced, and I should imagine that the mind of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House has at last been disabused of the idea that it is a non-contentious Bill. We have had an opportunity, also, of testing the feeling of the country upon this matter in several constituencies. Three constituencies which formerly returned Members who were supporters of the Government have transferred their affections, and their representatives are now to be found among the followers of the Leader of the Opposition. In every case in which there has been an election the Liberal majority has gone up, and the Tory majority has correspondingly decreased. I do not quite understand why there has been such a great hurry in endeavouring to smuggle this Bill through the House. Undoubtedly there has been a great desire on the part of the Government to shirk debate on the subject. We have had the closure

applied in a manner which has deprived hon. Members of their rights and privileges, and the Bill has been forced through Committee without a single word of amendment. I can only remember one precedent for that course, and that was a somewhat similar Bill to this, the Voluntary Schools Bill, which was another measure for the relief of the clergy. It was brought in to relieve them of the necessity of subscribing towards the support of voluntary Schools, and now you are relieving them of the duty of paying half their rates. I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman thinks that, in regard to clerical matters, the Government has some sort of divine inspiration in bringing a perfect measure before the House. I certainly do not look on this Bill as so perfect, for I think it could well have been altered in the interests of our constituents. I believe the right hon. Gentleman feared, and with good reason, that if he allowed a single amendment to be introduced the whole edifice of the Bill would have been entirely shattered. Certainly during the course of these debates the case for this Bill has been completely smashed, and there is not a single reason, or vestige of reason, why the Bill should pass into law. At first sight, when one looks at the fact that the clergyman is rated upon his income, it would seem that he deserves some consideration at the hands of the House. But it has been proved over and over again, especially by my right hon. friend the Member for West Monmouth, that the maintenance of the poor is as sacred and as strongly attached to the payment of tithe as the title to receive it. It is an extraordinary thing that, although this payment towards the Poor Rate has been constantly dwindling, the share of the clergyman has constantly increased. It has not been controverted that the rates are levied, not upon the clergy in respect of tithe, but on the tithe itself, and therefore it is impossible to contend that this is a personal grievance. No one will deny that a perfectly fair arrangement was come to when the Tithe Commutation Act was passed; for it has been proved that in the great majority of cases the rates were added to the tithe at the time of the commutation. The Secretary to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, than whom there could be no higher authority on this subject, has stated that the rates

at the time of the commutation amounted to 5s. in the £; that is to say, the receiver of £100 commuted tithe paid £25 in the form of rates in those days, whereas now he does not pay more than £7 10s. This works out that if the rate on the commuted value of tithe now stood at the same level as at the time of commutation, the annual payment would be something like £600,000 a year, whereas at the present moment the whole of the rates paid by the clergy, according to the estimate of the right hon. Gentleman, come to only £175,000. It is an undoubted fact that the clergy have gained enormously by the commutation, because the rateable value has gone down considerably. No doubt the incomes of the clergy have also gone down, but the same remark applies to everybody else, for whereas on investments it was possible thirty years ago to secure a return of 5 per cent., only 3 per cent. is now obtainable. There was one subject that did not receive attention in Committee, because of the manner in which the right hon. Gentleman thought proper to conduct the Bill. I refer to the case of heavily-tithed land. There is a considerable amount of land in this country on which the tithe is extraordinarily heavy. In some places it reaches 10s. per acre, and it was shown before the Royal Commission on Agriculture that in counties where rent had been reduced to a merely nominal sum the existence of a heavy tithe rent charge had become an almost intolerable burden, which placed difficulties in the way of the continuance or revival of cultivation. Further than that, the landlord had no sufficient security to justify him in undertaking the requisite outlay for the improvement of the farm, and in one case it transpired that the tithe owner had to take possession because nobody could be found to pay the tithe and other outgoings upon the holding. The Report from which I am quoting was signed by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture himself. He is as responsible for this Report as other members of the Commission; and I will ask him whether he thinks it is going to conduce to the best interests of the Church to call upon the lay ratepayers of a district not only to pay heavy tithes, but also to provide the funds to relieve the tithe receivers of one half of their rates. Let us take the case of a distressed district such as is to be found in the

county of Essex. Hon. Members who support the Government were very eloquent in regard to Essex when they were in opposition, although it seems that now their concern has somewhat died away. Look at the case of the labourers and shop-keepers who live in some of the Essex villages. They see the land going out of cultivation because of the very heavy tithe imposed upon it, and, suffering as they already are from a very heavy burden, they are to have an addition made to that burden by this Bill, simply to relieve the tithe receiver of one half of his rates. In 1891 an Act was passed, the intention of which was to relieve many districts of the excessive burden of tithe, but unfortunately, as is the case with too much of the legislation initiated by right hon. Gentlemen opposite, they have taken away with one hand what they gave with the other, and I believe there has been hardly a single case of reduction of tithe. We are told that this measure is based upon justice, but what justice is there in relieving of their rates tithe-owners who are in receipt of a tithe which is so heavy that it is driving the land out of cultivation? I do not want to excite prejudice; indeed, one cannot do that by stating sound facts. But I wish to show how inconveniently this relief is to be distributed. Take the case of Hatfield, the seat of the Prime Minister. There the tithes were commuted at £1,876. At present they are rated on about £1,000, and the rates would be £125. But at the time of commutation £300 was added on for the payment of rates, and therefore the tithe-owner has been receiving £300 a year for rates since 1836, although he is now only paying £125 a year. And what is the relief he will receive? £62 10s. a year—this gentleman in receipt of £1,000 a year. This is not an isolated case, because there are 127 cases of tithe held by clergy who have over £1,000 a year, and they will receive from £50 to £60 a year in relief of rates, while the clergyman with an income of £100 will receive only £6 5s. Is there any semblance of justice in this? (Cries of "Yes.") Well, if hon. Gentlemen like to go to their constituents and announce that they desire to give more money to the rich and less to the poor, they are quite welcome to that part of their political programme. This is a measure of justice which we are told is only to

last two years. Will the right hon. Gentleman who is responsible for it tell me whether it is really intended to drop it at the end of two years? It is not quite honest towards the House to endeavour to shirk discussion on these matters or to smuggle Bills through on the pretext that they are to be temporary, when it is probably intended that they shall be permanent.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG-LIVERPOOL, West Derby): The Agricultural Rating Act was made temporary at the request of the hon. Members on both sides of the House, and it was thought right that this Bill should be put on the same footing.

MR. LAMBERT: I do not think that it was done in deference to appeals from this side of the House. I rather fancy that the limitation of the duration of the Agricultural Rating Act to five years was due to the action of the hon. Member for Stockport. I am afraid the right hon. gentleman does not consult our wishes to the extent which he suggests. With regard to this plea of justice, the right hon. Gentleman has himself broken it down by refusing to admit all tithe-owners to the benefits of the measure. Surely if the proposal is just the relief should be extended all round; if it is unjust, then no single class should take advantage of it. It has been said that the clergy are entitled to relief from their rates because they have in some cases to employ skilled labour, just as skilled agricultural labour has to be employed by the landowners. Is not this degrading the sacred calling of the clergyman to reduce him to the position of a skilled labourer? Are we going to reduce the curate in charge of a cure of souls to the same position as a man who loads manure into a cart? I do not wonder that Convocation did not like the Bill, and that it was only with great difficulty that it could be got to assent to it. Indeed, I feel pretty certain that a good many rich clergymen and wealthy laymen belonging to the Church of England disapprove of it, for when they were appealed to to provide a sum of £340 to cover the cost of laying certain evidence before the Local Taxation Commission, only £140 was obtained. The hon. Member for Tunbridge, who is a kind of Parliamentary parson, sent round circulars to the clergy asking them

Mr. Lambert.

to send him in a statement of their grievances. And he got but comparatively few answers. But why did he not send to the wealthy clergy and laity and ask them to subscribe to relieve the necessities of the poorer clergy? Why did he so sully Christian teaching as to make it degenerate into a squabble over rates? I contend it is absolutely pitiable to see such a proposal as this in connection with a rich church, which enjoys an income of over seven millions a year. Why should it come down to this House and ask for a fresh endowment which, if capitalised, would represent a sum of three millions sterling? We have been told over and over again by the Colonial Secretary that during the existence of the late Liberal Government no single working man was a penny the better for the legislation it introduced. I think I could find out a great many working men who are a good many pounds the worse for the legislation of right hon. Gentlemen opposite. Why do not the wealthy members of the Church of England put their hands into their own pockets for the relief of their poorer clergy? I am reminded of some writings by the Rev. Sydney Smith upon bishops' incomes, in which he pointed out how the incomes of future bishops might fairly be reduced in order to provide for the improvements of small livings. He suggested that the Archbishops could surely do with less than £15,000 a year and two palaces, whilst a future Bishop of London might not require a palace at Fulham, a house in St. James's Square, and £10,000 a year. Now, this was the opinion, not of a Dissenter, but of a Church of England clergyman, and I commend it to the consideration of hon. Members opposite. The writer of a book dedicated to the Bishop of London declared it to be a sin on the part of Churchmen to assist Dissenters in any way by attending their chapels or by giving them money. Is it not an equal sin to call upon Dissenters all over the country to pay increased rates in order to give a fresh endowment to the Church of England? Lord Halifax, who has 4,000 clergymen at his back, recently complained of the action of the hon. Member for Flintshire, and suggested that, as he was a Nonconformist, he had no right to interfere with the doctrines of the Church of England. But is it right that a Church which is infinitely more wealthy than

any Nonconformist body should be unable to support its own ministers without calling in the assistance of those who do not belong to it? This is bound to go on in the country. A Cornish farmer writes:—

"There are a large number of the clergy who teach that they can turn the bread into the body of Christ and wine into His blood. If they can do that we might expect them to be able to put up the price of wheat to 15s. the bushel."

That is the view of a Cornish farmer who has a right to express his opinion on this subject. I contend that this injustice will sink deeply into the mind of the electorate of this country, and it is a measure which will increase hostility to the Church in the country districts. I beg to move that this Bill be read a third time this day three months.

*MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I beg leave to second this motion, and I join with my hon. friend in hoping that the House will reject the Third Reading of this Bill. The measure has a bad history. It was introduced under the ten-minutes' rule, and the Second Reading was so curtailed that hon. Members were prevented from expressing their opinion, and the Committee stage of the Bill was so pressed forward by the closure and other means that no adequate expression of opinion has taken place upon the merits of this measure. These are some of the reasons why I have joined with my hon. friend who has moved the rejection of this measure. I agree that it will be a long remembered Bill for the Conservative party, and I believe that they will probably wish, before many years are over, that they had never put their hands to this undertaking. The right hon. Gentleman who is in charge of the Bill has again reminded us that the operation of the Bill is limited for two years. When he has time to attend to the Debate, I should like to ask him in the course of his reply whether he will assure the House that at the end of two years the Bill will drop and will no longer be in operation. If he can give us that assurance, it will be some relief to our mind in that respect. I oppose this measure on two distinct grounds. In the first place, it is a distinct re-enactment of the Church rates under another form and by another name. It is the direct taxation of the free churches in

order to maintain the State Church, and on those grounds I oppose it. And, further, I oppose this measure because it is a Bill to minister to the wants of the pampered law breakers in the Church of England. At the present moment the country is shocked by the procedure of a large body of the Church of England clergymen who are breaking every law which they have sworn to obey, and are outraging the feelings of the large masses of the Protestant citizens of this country, both Churchmen and Dissenters. I think this is the most ill-judged time that could have been chosen to re-endow the Church of England at the expense of the community. It is well known that many of the clergy in the country are, perhaps, the most unpopular persons in the villages. We know that in many parts of the country the clergyman is the least popular of any person of position in his parish for many reasons. This Bill will add to those reasons, and instead of the mistrust which at present exists hatred will be begotten when it is known that the poor labourers of the village will have to make contributions towards the relief of the clergymen whom they already mistrust.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, no !

MR. BROADHURST: But this £87,000 comes from public funds, and every person who consumes taxable articles makes a contribution to that £87,000. Therefore the Free Church population of this country will pay in equal proportion towards this sum with the Church members of this country. Now this is a distinct wrong and injustice, for we have to maintain our own Churches. The Free Church community maintain their own clergy and their own Church; they pay the rates chargeable on the manses in which the ministers live, and out of their hard earned wages they maintain every charge that is made upon their places of worship. But, in addition to that, they will now be called upon to pay rates for the clergy of another denomination. I was going to explain to the Committee the other day that if the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had come for advice to this side of the House we could have shown him a much more constitutional way of relieving the clergy

Mr. Broadhurst.

than the one which he has adopted. We would have shown him how, when our ministers want more money, we put our hands into our own pockets and not into the pockets of members of other denominations. During the month of January this year I attended a large number of meetings in many parts of the country to endeavour to assist my hon. friend the Member for Louth in raising, by voluntary contributions, a million of guineas for the Wesleyan body. Labourers earning only 12s. a week have promised to pay a guinea during the year to this fund out of their very small wages. Surely if the farm labourers, the mechanics, and the small shopkeepers of this country can support their own Church, the members of the Church of England should be ashamed to come to the public funds for money for their clergy, which they ought to pay themselves out of their own pockets. I have in my mind at this moment a particular district which is dotted all over with residential millionaires, bankers, brewers, and money-lenders, all of them members of the Church of England. Why any one of these families could perfectly well find at least half the sum that you are now going to wring from the unwilling and oppressed taxpayers of this country. These wealthy people might have provided this small sum out of their private income without being any the worse for it at the end of the year. Surely this is a humiliation which ought to be felt, and which if I were a member of the Church of England I should feel most keenly, and I am sure there are many Churchmen and Churchwomen in this country—and some of the Church clergy themselves—who, to their honour, will feel humiliated at being classed among the paupers of this country by this system of outdoor relief which the right hon. Gentleman is providing for the clergy under this Bill. I do not know of anything that could do more harm to the Church than this measure. I am sure that nothing can help forward Disestablishment more than measures of the kind which we are discussing this evening, and if it is the design of the Government to promote Disestablishment then I congratulate them upon having taken a policy which certainly will have that effect to a considerable degree. I do not suppose any protest that we can make here, no matter how justifiable or how strong our case may be, or however true

our allegations against the system of robbery of the poor in order to further enrich those who are not in want, will change a single vote on the opposite side. I am afraid that loyalty to their leaders will induce hon. Members opposite to vote for a Bill which they know in their heart of hearts to be unjust, and based upon unjust principles which they know is enforcing from the poorest people in the country contributions in order to further bolster up and maintain a Church which is being ministered by a large number of lawless clergymen whose actions are condemned by thousands of Churchmen themselves. We shall, however, have the satisfaction of endeavouring to do our duty to our constituencies and to the country by voting against this measure, for I do not believe that any amount of argument will induce a single vote from the other side to come over to this side, which their common-sense and sense of right and justice would lead them to do were they not bound under such strict discipline by party management. I had an opportunity last night at a large representative gathering of county people, which included many shopkeepers and tradesmen, of ascertaining their opinion upon this Bill, and I may say that it was universally condemned and repudiated by the Churchmen who were present. I am sure the Government will find that to be so to a larger extent than they imagine. This wrong, added to the other wrongs of this Government, will go a long way indeed to make our task easier in bringing about a change of Government in the near approaching future, which we on this side of the House are looking forward to with confidence, while you on the opposite side of the House are staving off the evil day to the longest possible period. I beg to second this motion for the rejection of this Bill, which is an unjust and wicked imposition upon the poor taxpayers of this country.

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out the word ‘now,’ and at the end of the question to add the words ‘upon this day three months.’”—(Mr. Lambert.)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘now’ stand part of the Question.”

*MR. J. G. TALBOT (Oxford University): If the arguments which have been advanced by the hon. Gentlemen who moved and seconded the rejection of this Bill be all that can be said against it I think I can congratulate my right hon. friend on the case for it being unanswerable. I do not propose to deal at length with the speeches of the hon. Gentleman, but one matter has been mentioned on which I desire to say a few words. One of the arguments used in support of the rejection of this measure was that a great number of people were going to suffer a great wrong in order to benefit a comparatively rich class of ratepayers. I should like the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken to ask himself in calmer moments what number of his constituents will, when this Bill is passed into law, find themselves a penny the poorer. If the hon. Gentleman will pause for a moment in his career of somewhat heated denunciation of the Church of England to which he does not belong —

MR. BROADHURST: But for which I have to pay.

*MR. J. G. TALBOT: If the hon. Gentleman will pause and ask himself the true facts of the case, I think he will find that the relief which this Bill proposes to confer comes out of a fund which really does not in any way oppress the persons whom he represents. The contribution of the ordinary ratepayer to this fund is almost infinitesimal and the county authorities will not be a penny the worse as a result of this Bill except in so far as they may be deemed to be worse by not having received the increment to which they may have looked forward. The hon. Member asked why did not the richer members of the Church of England relieve the clerical tithe owners. As a matter of fact, a very large amount is paid at the present moment in voluntary subscriptions by the members of the Church of England towards the relief of the poorer clergy. The Queen Victoria Clergy Fund and several other funds are supported entirely by members of the Church of England for the relief of the necessitous clergy. This Bill is not a matter of charity, but of justice. It is asked for in order to redress what we believe to be an unjust mode of assessing the rate. I know hon. Gentlemen opposite do not admit that it is an

unjust mode, but that is the contention of the Government and of men who have studied the question. I would remind hon. Members how soon political memory fails. Not many years ago the great statesman who led the Liberal Party, and who was considered to be a great authority on financial matters, Mr. Gladstone, said that an absolute case had been made out for the relief of the clergy in this matter. I cannot subscribe to the doctrine that because a grievance has gone on for many years it ought not to be redressed. It has been said to be characteristic of the party to which I belong that when a thing had lasted for many years, it was allowed to continue unless a very strong case was made out against it. But the chief boast of the hon. Gentlemen opposite is : " Point out an injustice however long standing, and we will remove it." It is no answer to our arguments to say that as this grievance has been borne for years it can continue to be borne. That is not a fair way of stating the case. But I did not rise so much for the purpose of answering the arguments of the hon. Gentlemen opposite—if they can be called arguments—as to express, on behalf of the great number of clergymen throughout the country whom I have the honour to represent in this House, my extreme obligation to the Government. (Opposition cheers.) Hon. Gentlemen may indulge in ironical cheers, but I am not ashamed to thank the Government for this measure of justice, and for removing a grievance which has pressed hardly on the clergy for many years. We were urged to represent this matter to the Government; we did so to the best of our ability, and the Government, having carefully considered it, came to the conclusion that it was a case of justice and not of charity. I support this Bill because I believe it to be a sound measure for the relief of an established grievance which presses on a class of the community unique in this respect, that it has no direct representation in this House. The clergy of the Church of England, with the exception of the clergy of the Church of Rome, are the only class of the community prevented by statute from entering this House, and therefore it rests with us to represent their interests, and to advocate their just claims. We have advocated them, and the result is that Her Majesty's Government have introduced this Bill. I am quite aware

that this is not a popular measure, and on that

very account I am even more obliged to the Government. It is very easy to pass measures that are popular, and to create a furore in the country in their favour. That does not require much effort. But when Ministers redress a grievance from conscientious motives, although they expose themselves to political obloquy, I think they are entitled to special gratitude. I think also there is another class of the community who ought to thank Her Majesty's Government, and that is Her Majesty's Opposition. They have been provided with a cry for which they have been longing. They have now got something with which to endeavour to agitate the country. They will find, however, that the country on grounds of logic and argument, as well as of justice and consideration, will be with the Government. When the electors look at this matter calmly and deliberately, and apart from the heated atmosphere of the House of Commons, they will conclude that this Bill is not an act of charity, but of justice. It has been passed on behalf of a class which does not exercise any large political influence in the country. ("Oh, oh !") Well, the hon. Gentleman opposite said that the parson was the most unpopular man in the parish, and it is impossible to be unpopular and to exercise great political influence. The clergy of the Church of England do not deserve the odium cast upon them by the hon. Member in his speech. Taking all things into consideration, they are a class, I will venture to say, in spite of what the hon. Member has said, who are more moderately remunerated than any other class of educated Englishmen, and who are doing noble, praiseworthy, and self-denying work. Not on the ground of charity, but on the ground of justice, I therefore heartily support this measure.

*MR. C. WENTWORTH BEAUMONT (Northumberland, Hexham): In supporting the motion of my hon. friend I ask for the indulgence of the House, because I have never yet ventured to address it, either with you, Sir, in the Chair, or in Committee. I do so because I agree generally with the reasons expressed by the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken, and partly because if even the principle of the Bill is accepted it is too wide in its operation. In my view the provisions of this Bill should not extend to clergymen

presented to benefices after the passing of the Act. That point has been very little discussed, partly because some hon. Gentlemen who had put down Amendments in that direction did so in the wrong place, and partly owing to the constant application of the closure. If one thing came out more clearly than another in the course of the Second Reading Debate, and it has not been seriously denied by hon. Gentlemen opposite, it is that in estimating the value of the Tithe by the Commissioners in 1836 no deduction was to be "made for Parliamentary, parochial, . . . and other rates," and that "whenever said tithes should have been compounded for on the principal of rent or composition being paid free for all such rates, the Commissioners shall have regard to the circumstance, and shall make such addition on account thereof as may be equivalent." Those acquainted with the matter will know that what I have quoted is taken from Clause 37 in the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 which dealt with that part of the subject. This is, indeed, not seriously contested by the hon. Gentlemen opposite, but it has rather been ignored by the Government and by hon. Gentlemen opposite. Passing over that point, therefore, what is the ostensible ground for the Bill? It is that owing to the fall in value of the Tithe Rent-charge, clergymen who accepted a living on the understanding that they would have a certain income find that that income is very much reduced, and that they suffer thereby. That is not denied; but why should it be called an injustice? It is said that this Bill has been brought in to remedy this injustice. We admit that there is some hardship, but I do not think that the word "injustice," which has been so largely used by hon. Gentlemen opposite, should be applied to all. But, admitting, for the sake of argument, that there is an injustice, how has it arisen? It has been created by the Agricultural Rates Act of 1896, which excluded the clergymen from the so-called benefits of that Act. This injustice would not have been discovered at all had it not been for the omission of the clergy in passing the Act in 1896. There was not a thought of injustice by the Government in 1896. At all events the Chancellor of the Exchequer is credited with having expressed the opinion that the clergy had no claim for relief on that score. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is suspected to be not very fond of the clergy, and I think if the

language used by that right hon. Gentleman had come from this side, it would have been said that it arose from hostility to the Church of England. Now, the Government have tried to find a remedy for this "injustice" by making another; because we on this side of the House hold that it is an injustice that any particular class of persons should receive relief out of the public purse. It was on that ground that we contested the Agricultural Rating Act, and on the same ground, however great the hardships some of the clergy may have to endure, we contest this Bill. The Government seem to have thought that they could remedy one injustice by creating another, on some sort of idea, I suppose, that two blacks make a white. However, admitting that there is some hardship on those who were presented to benefices under different financial conditions, I want to know why the relief provisions of the Bill should be extended to those to be hereafter appointed. They will accept their appointments to livings knowing what income to expect from them, and they can have no ground of complaint afterwards. It has never been contended (so far as I am aware) that there is any difficulty in obtaining clergymen to accept benefices when there is a vacancy, in spite of this grievance. On the contrary, the supply of these gentlemen is far greater than the demand. The unfortunate patron knows that whenever he has a living vacant he is inundated with applications from men, good, bad, and indifferent. I think it was the late Lord Melbourne who said when he had Episcopal patronage to give away through the death of a bishop, "I believe these bishops die to spite me." I feel sure that most patrons of livings must have feelings very similar to that when they have patronage to bestow. By rejecting this Bill the House would not prevent a single man going into the Church, or a single clergymen from applying for a living; and this grievance would right itself automatically in the end. It is a great pity, to my mind, that the members of the Government do not have more opportunities of mixing with their supporters in the House in order to learn their real views. They confine themselves too much to their rooms. If they had been on the terrace or in the smoking-rooms they would have heard recently very strong language in regard to this Bill—language which, if expressed in this House, you, Sir, would not have held to be un-Parliamentary. The only amusing

incident of this dull session is the abuse lavished on the present Government by their supporters, who, with a few exceptions—notably the hon. Member for Stockport—have blindly followed them into the division lobbies. I thank the House very much for the patience with which I have been listened to, and I shall have no hesitation in voting against the third reading of this Bill.

*COLONEL V. MILWARD (Warwick): I cannot agree with very much that the hon. Member for South Molton Division has said, and I regret especially the reading of the letter which he has thought fit to read to the House. But there is one point upon which I do agree with him, and that is that it does place the House and the country in a difficult position when it is necessary to bring forward a Bill at this time of the year of a contentious character, and when, in order to pass the Bill through the Committee stage, it is necessary that the speeches should be extremely short, and the discussion confined to one side of the House. It is evident that the result must be that the country must have a distorted view of the Bill itself. When Members get up one after another to attack the Bill, and when the conduct of the Bill is thus one-sided, it is quite evident that the country at large must form an erroneous idea of the Bill and of the defence of it. In the course of the Committee stage there were 54 Government and 203 speeches from the Opposition. But if they excepted from the Government speeches those of the right hon. Gentlemen the Minister for Agriculture, the Solicitor-General, and the First Lord of the Treasury, there remained on the Government side twenty speeches against 203 from the Opposition. I think it is a notable fact that of those 203 speeches no fewer than 91 were delivered by Welsh Members, who have so great a feeling and so small an interest in this matter. I admit that nobody could have conducted the case with greater ability than the Minister for Agriculture, nor could the case have been placed more fairly before the House than by the three Ministers who have been concerned in the progress of the Bill; but when Member after Member rises and takes a false view of the position taken up by the Government I confess I can see no chance of remedying this state of things, unless we adopt the suggestion of the hon.

Mr. C. Wentworth Beaumont.

Member for South-East Essex, to limit the speeches, let us say Committee speeches, to ten minutes, so that the speaking may be fairly divided between the two sides of the House. There is another constitutional question in reference to the Bill that I wish to raise. The clergy themselves have been astounded at the reception which their case has met with in the House of Commons. Here is a set of men who, as ratepayers and taxpayers, in common with other members of the community, have a right to address themselves to the House of Commons for the redress of any grievance they have. It is acknowledged that the relief from taxation or rating is an interest which should be dealt with by the Crown or the House of Commons. These gentlemen have addressed themselves in a perfectly constitutional manner to the House. They have, through their Members, urged their views upon the country; but when their case was brought forward in the House it was flouted and sneered at, and was met by the perfervid—almost impassioned—eloquence of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire and the hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs, and by railly on the part of the hon. Member for Mid-Glamorganshire, and this culminated in the studied travesty of a preamble, which it was proposed to attach to the Bill, and which said that "the clergy were poor and unable to pay their rates," and that "the Church failed, out of its vast possessions, to make provision for them or their families." I deny both these charges. I deny that it is because of their poverty that they have a right to have their wrongs redressed here. I maintain that, whether poor or rich, they have a right to come to the State and ask that their wrongs should be redressed. I deny also very strongly that the Church has failed out of its riches to redress the poverty of the clergy. Let me state to the House what the Church has done during the last few years. In the year of the last Jubilee of the Queen a fund was raised called the Queen Victoria Jubilee Fund. In the first year it amounted to £100,000, and in 1898 to £45,000. These sums are specially applied for the purpose of raising the smaller incomes of the clergy. But in addition there is another fund called the Queen Anne's Bounty Fund. In 1897 there was contributed voluntarily to this fund

£106,613 for the permanent augmentation of the livings of the clergy, and in 1898 £116,932. Altogether, therefore, the sums contributed by these two funds for the augmentation of the livings of the clergy during the years 1897 and 1898 amounted to £206,613 and £161,932 respectively. Now, I do not desire to diminish for one moment what is being done by the Wesleyan or any other body, but it is unfair—and I am sure hon. Gentlemen opposite will feel it is unfair—to say that we are doing nothing for the augmentation of the livings of the clergy when we contribute as much as £200,000 a year for that purpose. In the diocese of Liverpool, moreover, there is the fact that every living has been raised to £200 a year. In addressing myself for a few moments to the objections which have been raised to this Bill, they appear to me to range themselves under three heads. The first objection is that the poor are being made to pay for the rich. Sometimes we hear the clergy called the rich and sometimes the poor, but I suppose that depends upon the line of debate taken by hon. Members. At all events the hon. Member for Market Harborough (Mr. Logan) raised very strongly the fact that the poor labourers were being made to contribute the sum of £87,000 for the benefit of the rich clergy, and he observed that it was disgraceful that in a certain county (Dorset) the labourer should be paid only 9s. or 10s. a week. I do not, however, see how the House of Commons is going to interfere with the price of the labourers' wages. But this I do say—that no poor person under any circumstances will contribute one penny to the relief which is being given to the clergy under this Bill. Hon. Members who make the contrary assertion either have not studied the Bill or are not acquainted with the facts. The whole of the relief is given from a portion of the annual sum which is given in relief of local taxation, viz., that portion which comes from the probate duty. It will not, I suppose, be contended that poor people who get 9s. or 10s. a week contribute anything to the probate duty. The relief given by Exchequer contributions to Local Rating is given from two sources, the Probate Grant and the Licenses. Now the Licenses are levied almost entirely from the rich; they are for armorial bearings, carriages, servants, &c.; but there is one

license which may be subscribed to by the poor, and that is the dog license. It is quite possible that here and there a few shillings may be contributed for a dog license by the poor, but that source is entirely exempted under this Bill. The relief which is to be given under this Bill is entirely from the Probate Duty, and not a single farthing can under any circumstances come from the poor. In point of fact, however, the particular sum which is given under this Bill does not come from the Probate Duty; it comes from the increment of the Probate Duty, so that not only is it money that never has come from the poor, but it is money that never has gone to the poor because it is money that has never yet been received or expended by the County or Borough Authorities. I wish to refer to the argument that the amount of the rates was added to the tithe in 1836. That is true in one sense, but it is not true in another. The case is precisely the same as that of a landlord who lets two houses side by side. One house he lets at £10 a year and pays the rates; while the other he lets at £8 a year, and the tenant pays the rates. Suppose there came a law that in every case the landlord should pay the rates, it is quite evident that he would charge £10 a year for each house. That is exactly what happened in 1836 with regard to the rates being added to the tithe. In some cases the clergyman had paid the rates, in some cases the farmer, but after 1836 the clergyman was by law required to pay them, and for this reason they were added to the tithe. We have never denied that the tithe was rateable. We have never denied that it should fairly pay the rate. We furthermore say that personal property should pay the rate also, and did pay it under the Act of Elizabeth. But we say that the rates have become an intolerable burden. There is not a single person in this House who will deny that for years past rates have been going up, but even if they were higher in 1836 what does it matter to us? The clergy who lived then are no longer alive, and to present incumbents there is only one experience, and that is that, owing to the fall in the value of tithe and the continual increase of rates, the burden has become so intolerable that the clergy have come to this House, and have been perfectly right in coming to this House, in order to get relief. There

is only one other objection to which I shall refer for a few moments, and that is the question between town and country. That question was raised particularly by the hon. Member for Bow and Bromley, who I am sorry to see is not in his place. The hon. Member wished that London should be exempted from the operation of the Bill, and a number of hon. Members on the opposite side supported him because they knew the adoption of his suggestion meant the destruction of the Bill. It is obvious, however, that to be effective, relief of this kind must have application to the whole country. Let me cite the case of two millionaires who died in my neighbourhood during the last three or four years. I suppose they must have paid at least £200,000 to the country under the Death Duties, and their share of the Probate Duty was very large. It would be perfectly fair according to the arguments on the other side of the House that the Probate Duty should go to the identical villages from which it was paid. The effect of that would be that these villagers would pay no more rates for the rest of their lives. But that is not the only question. Do you think villages contribute nothing to the towns? My opinion is exactly the contrary. Ever since the enormous increase of the road rate there has been an immense contribution of the villages towards the towns. My opinion is that the country contributes more to the towns than the towns to the country. What is the case of London? Do we in the country contribute anything towards London? I submit that we do. We pay for the parks, and a portion of the Metropolitan Police; £58,000 towards the parks, £54,968 towards the police, against the £19,000 which it is claimed that London contributes towards their relief of the clergy. Does the country clergyman share in the enjoyment of the London parks? Once, in a blue moon, he may bring his wife to London, but he amply contributes his share towards the cost of the parks and police through his hotel bill. It is perfectly clear that in a matter of this kind you should spread the whole of the cost over the whole of England. What is the cost? Of the amount of aid proposed by the Bill London contributes only one-seventh of a penny in the £ on the rates, as the London assessment now reaches the enormous value of £40,000,000

Colonel V. Milward.

a year. I believe the London rates are about seven shillings in the £, and surely one-seventh of a penny out of eighty-four pence is not excessive as a contribution towards the act of justice which we are trying to effect. I wish just to say one or two words with reference to what fell from the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton (Sir Henry Fowler), and to quote a very pregnant sentence from the speech of the right hon. gentleman on the Second Reading of this Bill. He was speaking on the urban rates and the Royal Commission, and he said :

"I say their first duty is to deal with the task entrusted to them, which is to suggest a remedy for the grievances under which all property holders labour with respect to local taxation."

These are very pregnant words, and I hope that in future the great Party opposite will live up to the declaration of the right hon. Gentleman, the Member for Wolverhampton, and endeavour to so decide matters that property and rent will no longer be considered to be the measure of a man's capacity to pay rates, but that rates will be spread not upon householders only, but upon personal property holders, and that thus there would be a great shifting of the burden. I have never dared to hope for it, myself; I think it almost past bearing that all the local taxation of the country should fall upon house and landed property, and I long to see the time when the right hon. Gentlemen opposite will bring their intelligence to bear on the subject, - that property in dividends and shares shall be made to bear a portion of the local burdens. I support most heartily the Third Reading of the Bill. I believe it to be a measure of justice which will not be attended by any appreciable amount of injustice; I am sure that the cause of the clergy will benefit by the Bill now being enacted; and I hope the heated feeling which has passed over the House lately will soon be forgotten and that we shall all feel that we have tried to do something which will bring justice to a distressed class of our population.

MR. BIRRELL (Fifeshire, W.): The right hon. Member for Oxford University has made one of the most "sporting" offers to the hon. Member for Leicester I have ever heard. He offered to write his speeches for him. Whether he wa-

also willing to deliver them I did not quite understand. But the hon. Member for Leicester, being I suppose anxious to retain his seat, did not accept the offer. But I, being of a milder mould, and the weather being hot, would be only too happy to accept his offer to make, write, and deliver the speech which it is necessary for me to make on this occasion. There can be no pleasure in taking part in Debates of this kind. The inevitable consequence of an unusually large Parliamentary majority is that it robs all the steps Parliamentary instincts require to be taken before a Bill becomes law, of their reality, sincerity, and significance, and the time-honoured forms of this House seem to become mere vehicles of obstruction. But we were bound to remember that the Opposition has its duties—although it may be questionable whether nowadays it possesses any rights—and one of them is the duty of maintaining the forms and traditions of the House, waiting for better times, which this Bill may do something to accelerate, when the Government majority may not be so great as it is now and Gentlemen opposite may be glad the Opposition maintained for them the ceremonies which they look upon now with abhorrence and dislike. I opposed this Bill on the Third Reading on the same ground as I would oppose it on the Thirtieth Reading, because it is an essentially unjust and ill-omened Bill. There was a time when there might be found, scattered up and down this pleasant country, rate-paying and taxpaying persons who took no active part in political contentions, even during the turmoil of general elections, not greatly caring for the success of the "ins" or the "outs"; and most of us in our hours of languor, when the wheels of life run slow, have felt a sneaking sympathy with those gentle spirits who, if accused of unpatriotic indifference, were able to allege, and allege truthfully, that in the past, at all events, whichever Party succeeded in clutching the golden keys, there was one key on the bunch which would never be basely turned to party purposes—the key of the National Exchequer. They could always rely that whichever Party occupied the Treasury bench it would supply a Chancellor of the Exchequer who would regard himself as the trusted guardian of public funds, and would never consent to allow himself to become the mere party paymaster of greedy and mercenary forces. If ever there was a Bill which required to be defended in principle and

details by the Chancellor of the Exchequer it is this Bill, which, in the opinion of a large number of people, diverts public funds into very private uses indeed, and pays off half the rates of the clergy of a particular Church out of the probate duty. It is a Bill which might be right or which might be wrong, but it ought to be defended. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer has taken no part whatever in the discussions. Rumour, always rife in the lobbies of this House, alleges that he did not like the Bill. Rumour is a lying jade. I am not prepared to believe the rumour, and I will assume that the Chancellor of the Exchequer approves of the Bill and likes it because, although his tongue may be silent, his is the responsibility for it, for his is the hand that turns the tap that fills the clerical pail. We have had some useful discussions during the progress of the Bill, and one thing became clear during the course of those discussions which was not quite clear when we began. All persons are agreed that tithe rent-charge is rateable property. The hon. and learned Member for Stroud, the apostle of rating and the high priest of assessment committees, took a large part in the Debates until my hon. friend the Member for Mid Glamorgan discovered that he had written a book on the subject, which was in the library, and then my hon. and learned friend, if he will allow the quotation in all kindness, "Curled up on the floor, And our subsequent proceedings seemed to interest him no more." Tithe rent-charge is rateable property, and directly that is admitted away goes the argument of the clergy that they are rated on professional incomes. It is admitted that professional incomes are not rateable property, and there is no proposal to make professional incomes rateable property. Therefore tithe rent-charge is rateable property, whether in the hands of a lay improvisor or in the hands of a clerical holder of a living. I am quite able to appreciate the difference between tithe rent-charge in the hands of a lay improvisor and the net rent-charge which remains in the hands of the clergyman compelled to discharge the duties of the parish to which he is attached and to see that public worship and the rites of the Church are properly performed there. But that is not a question of rating, but of the mode of assessment, and the mode of assessment depends on the circumstances, not of the

clergy as a body, but on the circumstances of each particular case, and demands and requires that each particular case shall be considered on its own merits. Therefore there was no general injustice in rating the clergy in the way they are rated now. The very highest way it is possible to put it is that in particular cases, after particular inquiry it might be that good sense and good judgment would suggest that certain deductions should be allowed. Putting myself in the position of hon. Gentlemen opposite seeking to support this Bill as they best can, I would ask them whether they can really put the case of the clergy higher than this : that at the most some of the clergy ought to be permitted, under a proper equitable mode of assessment, to make certain deductions from their tithe rent-charge. But this Bill does not pretend to do anything of the kind. It does not alter the law of rating or the mode of assessment, or permit a single clergyman to make legitimate deductions. It simply dips its hand into the purse of the National Exchequer and takes £87,000 out and gives it to the clergy, totally irrespective of whether any of them are entitled to make a just claim on which the whole case for the Bill rests. The Bill is doubly unjust—it is unjust to the clergy, because it divides the money among them independently of their moral claim to make deductions. It is also grossly unfair to the country, because it will not be pretended that this £87,000 is not a larger sum than would be required to make up anything the rates may lose if the deductions of which I have spoken are made. Therefore I will ask whether this mode of dealing with the question is not one of gross injustice both to the clergy, whose interests the Government seeks to serve, and the interests of the country, which they are bound to protect ? I cannot myself agree that these deductions are right and proper to be made, because I cannot forget that for sixty years the courts of law and justice have decided that they cannot be permitted. The difficulty of making these deductions in particular cases is very great, and there is not a single gentleman alive who has not accepted his living on the condition that these deductions were not likely to be allowed. However that may be, I submit they have not made out a single case to justify the appropriation of this sum of money to

alleviate the distress, or rather the injustice which they insist upon. However, I suppose we must soon part with this Bill, and it will go and seek its fortunes elsewhere. I must say that to anyone who loves irony and delights in an ironical situation more than justice, there is something peculiarly charming in the spectacle of a council of lay impro priators—of men holding the greatest tithes which once, at all events, were devoted to religious and charitable purposes—meeting in solemn conclave to consider—what? How best to relieve the necessities of the holders of the small tithes which are still devoted to religious purposes—at the expense of the public exchequer. There is where the weak point comes in. At the expense of the public exchequer ! How many times during the last twenty years have I not read in the truth-loving columns of the *Guardian* newspaper—an organ of opinion for which I have the profoundest and most sincere respect—the complaint that if only the lay impro priators would tax themselves voluntarily at one half the amount at which the poor clerical holders of the small tithes do for church purposes, it would not be necessary for the Church of England to make these annual raids upon the public exchequer, but she would be able both to pay her own clergy and to maintain her own schools. I venture to make these remarks here, because I doubt very much whether they will be made elsewhere. The point I am really desirous of making is that I do think it is a public scandal and a constitutional wrong that a measure of this sort should be sent from beginning to end through Parliament *sub silentio* by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. SETON-KARR (St. Helens) : It has been suggested on the other side of the House that we on this side have entered into a conspiracy of silence because we cannot justify our support of this Bill. Under those circumstances I do not feel inclined to give a silent vote. I have voted for this Bill all through with a light heart and a clear conscience. I most cordially support the measure, and in doing so I have not discovered the slightest strain on my allegiance to Her Majesty's Government or to the party to which I belong. My chief objection to the Bill is that it does not go far enough. On the ground of

Mr. Birrell.

justice we ought to relieve the clerical tithe-owner not only of half his rates, but of the whole. I support this Bill, to put it shortly, on two grounds. In the first place, on its merits; and, secondly, because it seems to me that it is a Bill to which the present Government and the Unionist Party are committed by their previous acts, statements, and measures which have been passed. They are committed to it by the Report of the Royal Commission on Rating (which they themselves appointed), and they are committed to it by the precedent of the Agricultural Rating Act of 1896. This Bill is a simple and necessary act of justice. I have listened to nearly the whole of these Debates, and I am bound to say that most of the speeches and criticisms directed against the measure have been very largely animated by party feeling; they have contained a maximum of party feeling with a minimum of solid argument. Hon. Members have argued from all sorts of premisses; it is difficult to criticise any two arguments together. What is it that this Bill proposes to do? It proposes to relieve the tithe-rent charge attached to a benefice of half its rates. What is the simple reason for that? That there is no other property rated in the same way; and therefore it is unfair to rate this in that way. It is not a question of the gross or net income; it is not a question of rating the incomes at all. What is the fact? The clerical tithe-owner is taxed on his income like everybody else, whether it is a tithe rent-charge income or an income from other sources; he is rated on his dwelling like everybody else, but he is also rated on his tithe rent-charge like nobody else. On that ground, when it is established—and I venture to say it is established—logically the whole of that unfair burden ought to be removed. Have any hon. Members opposite brought forward a single analogous case in which incomes are rated in the same way? The hon. Member for Carnarvon delivered an eloquent but violent party speech on the Second Reading, and made the only attempt I have heard to cite some analogous cases. The instances he cited were the income of a colliery proprietor and the income received by a house proprietor from small houses which he owned, and the hon. Member said they were analogous cases in which the holders were rated on their incomes. I submit that there is absolutely no analogy at all. For this simple reason; in the case of the

colliery proprietor or the owner of house-rent, the amount of the rent is a question of private bargaining between the lessor and lessee, in which the rates are taken into account. In the case of tithe, the rates cannot possibly be taken into account, because it is not a question of private contract.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon District): I do not think I said they were rated on their income. I said they were very often rated on more than their income.

MR. SETON-KARR: I do not quite follow the interruption. I think the hon. Member said the owners of house property and collieries were rated on their incomes.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: On more than their income.

MR. SETON-KARR: On more than their income. Of course, they are rated on the assessment of their property. The clerical tithe owner is also rated on his dwelling, quite apart from the tithe. The point I am endeavouring to make is that in the one case it is a question of private contract, and in the other it is not. Here is where the shoe pinches. Rates are in the habit of going up. In the one case the rent may go up, but in the other case the net income of the clerical tithe-owner goes down. Let me state my reasons why, as a borough Member and a supporter of Her Majesty's Government, I am entirely in favour of this Bill. Whence does the opposition to this Bill come? In the first place, there is the opposition of my right hon. friend the Member for Bodmin. I listened to his speech on the Second Reading with very great interest. But we ordinary Members cannot but be influenced by the thought that my right hon. friend is the "candid friend" of the Unionist Government, and his standard of legislative excellence is so high that it is almost impossible to conceive any measure which would receive the stamp of his approval. I shall, therefore, criticise with the utmost diffidence one argument which my right hon. friend pressed upon the House. I think the argument that he pressed with the greatest force may be summarised in three words—priority of title. I think I am putting the case in its outline when I say that the argument was that the tithe rent-charge is prior to the ownership of the land, and therefore under no circumstances can it be interfered with—in other words, that what

has been going on for three centuries cannot be altered now. The consideration at once occurred to me that the rates are not a fixed quantity. If the rates were the same now as they were three centuries ago, I could see some force in the argument, but rates are constantly going up. The owner of tithe who had a certain income many years ago has not the same income now—for one reason, because the rates are constantly going up to meet the advance of civilisation.

AN HON. MEMBER: The rates have gone down.

MR. SETON-KARR: I contend that rates generally go up. At all events, they vary, they are not a fixed quantity. My argument is that if the rates were a fixed quantity there would be some ground for the argument of antiquity or priority of title. But the rates vary; they may go up, and they have gone up; in some cases possibly they have gone down. What was fair and right three centuries ago is not, necessarily, right now. We want to see the incidence and burden of rating so equally distributed that they are shared as well by personal property as by real property, and I submit that this Bill is founded on that great principle. I desire to allude to the position of my hon. friend the Member for Stockport. He opposed this Bill in a somewhat violent speech, in which he said that it was unfair to the boroughs and the urban districts. He went even further, and used stronger language, saying that this Bill betrayed the interests of the towns of the country. In passing, let me deal with a side argument on this point. My hon. friend did not give any figures, but I propose very shortly to quote some figures to the House. In the first place, he said that the interests of the boroughs had been sacrificed to the interests of the counties. Under this Bill we are taking £87,000 out of the Local Taxation Fund to relieve the clerical tithe owner. That means to the clerical tithe owner about £8 per head. Under the ingenious and wise provision of the Bill, what does it mean to the general body of ratepayers? I admit at once that it means, in the first place, that £87,000 is taken away from the Local Taxation Grant, which would otherwise go to the relief of the rates of the ratepayers of England and

Wales. But the rateable capacity of England and Wales is quoted at £172,000,000. £87,000 spread over that means $\frac{1}{10}$ d. in the £. I ask the House in all seriousness, Do those figures justify the heroic language of the Member for Stockport? Take a £25 householder. In that case he has to pay towards the relief given by this Bill the large sum of 3d. a year. The burden is inappreciable. So strongly do I feel that this Bill is a just Bill, that even though the burden were appreciable, I still would heartily vote for it; but as the burden is inappreciable, it does not in any way justify the language which has been used. The hon. Member went further, and said that the borough supporters of Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to go down and justify this Bill in the face of their constituents. I do not know by what right my hon. friend arrogated to himself the right to speak for the boroughs of the country. He represents but half a borough; I represent a whole one, but I do not propose to speak of anyone other than myself. I voted for the Agricultural Rates Bill. I have supported this Bill in all its stages, and intend to vote for the Third Reading. I have not received from a single constituent a single line of remonstrance of any sort or kind. I can only say that I am quite ready to go down to my constituents and justify my vote on any occasion and on any platform. The position of hon. Members opposite in opposing this Bill has been already dealt with. They are all agreed that this Bill is a godsend to them. There are many Members opposite whose fixed and determined policy is to disestablish and disendow, if they can, our national Church. It is only natural that those Members should oppose the Bill; it recognises the vested interests of our national clergy in the funds of our national Church. Language has been carried so far as to describe this Bill as a piece of class legislation, a dole to the clergy; or, as one hon. Member said, the squire and parson have combined to rob the poor ratepayer. We can liberally discount that language; we know exactly what it is worth. But why do not hon. Members opposite go and use the same words in the constituencies? I am glad to think there is at least one consistent Member of the Opposition who is opposing this Bill, and that is the hon. Member for Northampton.

Mr. Seton-Karr.

During the last forty-eight hours he has been to his constituents and told them that the Unionist Government takes every opportunity of utilising the funds of the Exchequer in order to bribe and corrupt its supporters. That is only consistent with what the hon. Member said in this House. But during the last eighteen months three elections have taken place—there may have been more—in which the supporters of the Liberal candidates have issued pamphlets and leaflets soliciting votes on the ground that this Bill is a good Bill, and required by the clergy.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Not this Bill.

MR. SETON-KARR: No; something more than this Bill. Voters were asked to support the Liberal candidate on the ground that the clergy could not trust the Unionist Government. The Leader of the House quoted one of those leaflets on the Second Reading of the Bill, and if the statement therein contained is not a suggestion that if the clergy wanted the rates on their tithes reduced they must vote for the Liberal candidate, I do not know what it is. One thing is said in this House, but another thing in the constituencies. We have all heard of the advice of the unscrupulous City man to his son, "Get money, honestly if you can, but get it." I should like to paraphrase that, and say that hon. Members opposite seem to go on the principle, "Get votes, honestly if you can, but get them." I am glad for another reason that Her Majesty's Government have brought in this Bill. I am glad that they are doing something for some of their friends and supporters. The Unionist Government have promoted legislation in the past which has had a chastening effect upon some of their supporters. There are Irish landlords and English employers of labour on this side of the House who can bear testimony to that fact. Chastisement and contradiction is, indeed, good for us all; but the old Adam will sometimes prevail, and I do most heartily congratulate Her Majesty's Government on bringing in a Bill which I look upon as a simple act of justice, and which also will do something to help some of their supporters.

*MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth): I think we probably have the real reason

for the support of this Bill at the conclusion of my hon. friend's speech. We listened not an hour ago to the somewhat plaintive thanks which were tendered by the hon. Member for Oxford University on behalf of his clerical friends for this small contribution towards their relief, and he went on to point out that the Government are worthy of praise because they have introduced a measure which he stated was most unpopular in the country. While it is perfectly true that twenty speeches have been delivered from the opposite benches in support of this measure, very few of those speeches have been by a Member for a large democratic urban constituency. Substantially it is true that the support of this measure has come from the rural and not from the urban districts. I admit at once that the Church of England is at the present moment devoting large sums of money, raised by voluntary contribution, towards the purposes of the National Church. Our only complaint is that she will not carry that process just a little further, and provide by voluntary contributions this comparatively small sum for which she proposes to dip her hands into the public purse. The Church of England has about 1,950,000 communicants connected with the Establishment, out of a population in England of 29,000,000. If on the next occasion when those communicants attend church they could be persuaded to give 1s. each towards the necessities of their clergy, it would be wholly unnecessary for the Government to trouble Parliament to provide this miserable dole. May I point out to the House that the only plea which has been put with any force before the country in support of this measure is the destitute condition of a number of worthy clergymen?

Several HON. MEMBERS: No!

*MR. PERKS: I say, put with force. I know some Members take a different view in this House, but that is not the ground on which the Bill is defended in the country. I read the clerical journals and the speeches of hon. Members who venture to defend the Bill in the country—and they are very few—and those speeches have been based on the fact that the clergy are miserably off, that their rates have risen, that their tithes have fallen, and therefore, it is alleged, they

are entitled to this relief. What I want to point out is that there are vast masses of the clergy, and probably the most deserving, who do not come within the purview of this Bill at all. There are in this country about 13,000 incumbents in the various livings, large and small, but there are upwards of 6,000 clergy who are completely out of occupation, who have no livings or clerical charges whatever. That vast body of men, who certainly are not the least necessitous, are not brought within the confines of this Bill at all, and receive no relief whatever. Pass to the great number of curates in this country. Does anybody imagine that one of the effects of the Bill will be to add to the salary or to improve the condition of curates, or lead to the employment of more curates? He must be a very sanguine man indeed who thinks so. Take again the clergy in the towns—probably the most hard-working of the clergy, the men with the largest congregations, who do the most effective social and moral work. How are those men supported? They are supported not by tithes, but mainly by the contributions of their congregation, the offertories and pew-rents. These men will derive no benefit, or very little in very exceptional cases, from this Bill. The main relief will go to the clergy in the rural districts and in the small towns of the country; it will be given to the rich and poor alike. The man who is receiving £1,000 a year will get it equally with the man who is receiving only £200 a year, simply because the House refused to adopt the sliding scale which was proposed. It would be a great convenience if the Government, when introducing a Bill which it is intended shall not be altered, would state so in plain language; that would be a far more honest course than for us to be invited to put upon the Notice-Paper Amendments when the Government from the outset have decided that they will not allow a single alteration in the Bill. I cannot help thinking that one of the effects of this Bill on the Anglican Church will be the same as was produced by the gift to voluntary schools. The subscriptions to voluntary schools have fallen away. That is the complaint made in all directions by the diocesan authorities and by the administrators of the funds of the Anglican Church in reference to voluntary schools. Is it likely if £87,000 a year is

voted by Parliament out of the public purse for the assistance of the clergy that the voluntary contributions of the Anglican Church will be maintained at the present level? No such result can be expected. The Church of England will probably lose much more in the falling away of her voluntary contributions than she will derive from this small but most offensive grant from the State. Since this Bill was in Committee I have had the opportunity of seeing a number of my constituents in Lincolnshire on one of those festive occasions, a great agricultural show, and I was surrounded by robust representatives of agricultural depression—farmers of Lincolnshire, who wanted to know how this Bill would affect them. I told them they ought to be thankful, being supporters of Her Majesty's Government, to be permitted in some small degree to contribute still more to the maintenance of the clergy of their various parishes. But, said one farmer to me, "the clergyman in our parish will get very small relief. He is spending much more than he will get in keeping candles lighted all day long in the parish church of our parish, and I do not think that that is the sort of man I should be disposed to assist out of public funds." I agreed with him, and I trust that this Bill may have some effect upon his vote at the next election. I do not agree with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the University of Oxford, that the Church of England clergy are not an influential class in the country. I rather agree with the late Mr. Bright, who said they were the registration agents of the Tory Party, and the most powerful electioneering supporters of that party. Looking at the question from that point of view, I am not at all surprised that the Member for St. Helens stated plainly, frankly—rather brutally, I thought—that he thanks the Government because they are looking after their friends. That was not quite an original remark, because it was made a few months ago by a noble Lord who took occasion to sever himself from the Tory Party, speaking to a very large Tory constituency in the West End of London, where he plainly stated that he thought it was the duty of the Tory Party when in office to look after their friends. The clergy have made their bargain; they took these livings knowing precisely the conditions under which they took them,

and it is totally unjust that they should now be assisted in the manner proposed in this Bill. What should we think if we were told that the Legislatures of either the German Empire or the French Republic were engaged in subsidising the clerical parties of those great countries? Yet that is precisely the work in which we, in this country, at this period of the century, have been engaged for the last few weeks. I was reading the other day a very powerful speech by the Archbishop of Dublin, Lord Plunkett, in which, speaking of the Disestablishment of the Irish Church and the wonderful effect it had upon the evangelistic power and religious force in the country, he congratulated himself that they were not dependent at the time he was speaking upon tithes in Ireland and upon charges arising from the land. He said that if the Irish Church had had to be disestablished at a later epoch in its history it would have met with far more opposition and obloquy, and would have been compelled to endure the most cruel straits, from which they were relieved by having severed the connection with the State. I cannot but feel that this measure will increase enormously the unpopularity of the clergy in the rural districts. I do not profess to belong to the Church of England—I belong to a voluntary church; I have not the smallest antipathy to the Church of England as a religious institution. At the same time I feel that the influence of the clergy, who can have it thrown in their teeth by their parishioners that by availing themselves of this Act they have come upon the rates, will be materially reduced. I trust there are in the Church of England to-day many clergy, honourable, godly, intelligent men, who are anxious to increase their influence, who, notwithstanding the offer which is here made to them by Her Majesty's Government, will have the courage and the manliness to refuse to become pensioners of the State through the medium of this Bill.

*MR. WANKLYN (Bradford, Central): I accept at once the challenge of the hon. Member that the Representative of a great democratic constituency should rise and state his reasons for supporting the Bill. Before giving those reasons I should like to say a word with regard to the point that the clergymen in receipt of the largest incomes would receive the

greatest benefit. The hon. Member for South Molton cited the case of Hatfield. It is common knowledge that the rector of Hatfield, the son of the Prime Minister, has working with him five, if not six, curates, and he expends about double the annual value of his living on his parish. That is no isolated case. It might be stated as a general proposition that where there is a large stipend the duties and the calls are large in proportion. The hon. Member opposite has cited a friendly agriculturist who was opposed to this Bill. I can pit against his agriculturist a friend of mine, who received a letter a few days ago in which the argument was thus summed up by a small farmer:

"I be a Congregationalist myself, but I don't hold with this raking up of bitter feeling. You has a grievance; why shouldn't we help you out of it?"

I think we shall find that feeling very general amongst Congregationalists, certainly in the North of England where they love justice and fairplay. As to my reasons as a North of England borough Member for supporting this Bill, I can say that I enter upon this Debate without prejudice. I am not only a Member for an industrial community, I am also a Liberal Unionist Member. I am not a member of the Church Party, as I do not believe in government by groups, and I am no blind partisan of any Ministry. I have ventured, more than once to vote against my own Government, and upon one occasion I positively went so far as to issue a whip against them. I can therefore speak without prejudice. Why are we supporting this Bill? Because it is a measure of obvious justice. I confess for myself I knew little about the question of title rent-charge before the introduction of this measure, but I felt it my duty to study the Report of the Royal Commissioners—a body of experts. I have read and studied that Report carefully, and have come to the same conclusion, as an unprejudiced person, that the unprejudiced persons on the Commission came to. Sir John Hibbert, Sir Edward Hamilton, Sir G. H. Murray, the Town Clerk of Liverpool, and the Town Clerk of Birmingham are certainly unprejudiced persons, and what do they say? That the burden of local taxation on the rural clergy is unduly onerous. I submit to the unpreju-

diced persons of this country that they will do well to be advised by such experts as these. The objection is raised that the measure has been rushed through the House. Particular objection is taken to its introduction under the Ten-minutes' rule. I understand that only non-controversial measures are introduced under that rule. I claim, in all honesty, that this is a non-controversial Bill. At the close of the Second Reading Debate on this Bill the First Lord of the Treasury read to the House a circular officially issued by the Radical Party at the time of the East Herts bye-election last year. A facsimile of the circular had also been issued at the East Berks election, and a similar circular had been issued by the very much-respected Member for Mid-Norfolk at the time of the South Norfolk election. I have inquired into the origin of these circulars, and I find that the cases which I have mentioned are not isolated, but that similar circulars have been issued from an office not very far from this House to Radical agents in the rural districts throughout the country. I maintain that these circulars were part of a settled policy. Hon. Gentlemen opposite denounced us last year for neglecting this grievance. How can they come forward this year and denounce us for remedying it? With those circulars within their knowledge the Government were entitled to consider that this would be a non-party question. When such distinguished lawyers as my hon. and learned friend below me and the hon. and learned Member for West Fife differ on the subject it is not for me to enter into the very abstruse question of rating. But the plain man in the country will be bewildered when he reads these circulars. He will say, "Here is Her Majesty's Opposition one year setting out that this is a very real grievance, and describing its remedy as an obvious measure of justice, and now they obstruct the remedy." I can suggest to the plain man that Her Majesty's Opposition think they see an opportunity of dealing a blow at the Church, which at the moment is suffering in popular esteem by the extravagance of a few foolish persons. In no other way can the large attendance of Members during these debates, or the all-night sitting, be accounted for. The question before us has not been the remedy of this grievance, which is admitted by both sides. The real issue

is the disendowment and disestablishment of the Church of England as a plank in the platform of the party opposite for the next general election. We thank them for the warning they have given us, and we will very gladly join issue with them on the subject. Before I sit down I must express as a humble Member of the Liberal Unionist Party my regret that the right hon. Gentleman, the Member for Bodmin, of whom all of us must speak with respect, threw in his lot with the party of disendowment and disestablishment. The right hon. Gentleman has referred to the period previous to 1886. Was disendowment and disestablishment a plank of the Liberal party then? I have the honour to represent the constituency of the late Mr. W. E. Forster, and to his dying day he stated publicly and privately that he would never be a party to any measure of attack on the Church of England, direct or indirect. I refer, of course, to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bodmin with all respect, but I do ask what right has he to speak for the Liberal Unionist Party? Who set him up as a ruler over us? I have attended many Liberal Unionist meetings since I had the honour of being enrolled in this party, and I never met the right hon. Gentleman at any one of them. So far as I know he has no official connection with the party and no official right to speak for it. As I understand matters it was not, as the right hon. Gentleman suggests, on the question of the union between England and Ireland only that the Liberal Unionist Party was formed. There were many of us who foresaw the attack on the Church, which is being commenced now. We came together, most of us I believe, not only on the question of the union between England and Ireland, but also on the question of the union between Church and State, the union between Great Britain and her Colonies, and on that greatest question of all the union between class and class. The right hon. Gentleman may, I think, be described with all respect as a one-man party. I suppose there is not room on this side of the House for two one-man parties, and therefore another hon. Gentleman who objected to this Bill took himself elsewhere. I can only describe the hon. Gentlemen for Stockport as a man with one idea, because the whole burden of his speech on the Second Reading was that this party came into

Mr. Wanklyn.

office on the question of the social alleviation of the poor. At this moment we have under discussion the Food and Drugs Bill and the Small Houses Bill. Do they not mean anything to Stockport?

*MR. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. Gentleman to confine himself to the question before the House.

*MR. WANKLYN: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and I will only say that I fail to understand the hon. Gentleman's own argument, because at this moment these two other measures are being carried through. He has taken himself to the other side, and as an advocate of child labour I hope he will be welcome. On the Third Reading of this Bill Members on this as well as on the other side of the House are at the bar of public opinion. If hon. Members take this Blue Book back to their constituents and will expound it to them, they will find that all plain and unprejudiced persons will be inclined to support the views of the town clerks of Liverpool and Birmingham. Englishmen love justice and fair play, and will support us in any action we take in this matter. If hon. Gentlemen opposite take down to their constituents the three circulars to which I have referred they will find it exceedingly difficult to explain why last year this very proposal was a measure of obvious justice, while this year it is denounced in every term within the Parliamentary dictionary, and is obstructed to the end. I think hon. Gentlemen will find it very difficult to explain their position, and their constituents will conclude that if they are not to be trusted to take a straightforward course in such a small matter as the removal of this grievance they cannot be trusted with larger measures affecting the welfare of the Empire and the great institutions of this country.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The hon. Member who has just sat down has deprecated what he called government by groups in this country, but most of his speech was taken up with frequent declarations that he was a member of the Liberal Unionist Party, and he proceeded to expound, until stopped by you, Sir, the principles of that Party. Among those principles was the union of class and class, but it is a peculiar kind of

union which robs one class for the benefit of another. The hon. Gentleman, who repudiated the lead of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bodmin, and preferred to follow the lead of the town clerks of Birmingham and Liverpool, has got some exceedingly peculiar views. One of them is that this measure is non-controversial. Here is a measure opposed by the whole Opposition led by their official leader, and yet the hon. Gentleman persists in calling it non-controversial, and he bases that inference on the ground that the agents of two or three Liberal candidates here and there issued some circulars in the course of bye-elections which stated that the clergy had a grievance in the matter of local assessment which ought to be redressed. In the first place, I would point out that this is not the measure recommended in those circulars at all. This is simply a dole to the clergy. In any event, I would point out that the views of one or two candidates cannot commit any party. In the course of the last election there were some Unionist candidates who advocated a shilling duty on corn. Surely that does not commit the whole of the Unionist party to that policy. In Wales the Conservative candidate in a lead mining constituency recommended a duty on foreign lead. Surely the Unionist party were not committed by such silly circulars, and it is quite as absurd to say that the whole Opposition is committed to a policy of clergy doles because a few circulars were issued, probably without the knowledge of the candidate at all. In the course of these Debates one most important argument in favour of this Bill has been absolutely abandoned. As has already been pointed out, it is the only argument which would recommend the Bill to the country, and that is the argument of distress among the rural clergy. That is now repudiated most emphatically. I may point out that the measure was advocated in this House in the first instance, not on the ground of rating reform, but purely on grounds of relief for the distressed clergy. A resolution was moved by the hon. Member for Harwich on behalf of the Church Party, of which he is a distinguished member, on the 23rd March, 1897, which stated that in view of the distressed condition of many of the clergy whose remuneration was principally derived from tithe, rent-

charge the House was of opinion that the burden of local taxation was inequitable and excessive, and called for substantial relief. The ground for relief was based entirely on the distressed condition of many of the clergy, and nothing was said about rating reform. I would also point out that the hon. Member who is secretary of the Church Party in this House sent a number of circulars to the clergy stating that special pains were taken to include all those whose incomes were returnable at £160 per annum and under. It was, therefore, altogether a matter of relief for the distressed clergy. What did the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill say in Committee? An Amendment was moved which would have the effect of confining the operation of the Bill to clergymen with small incomes, and to that extent would relieve clergymen who were in a really distressed condition, but the right hon. Gentleman said that the Amendment was directed against the whole principle of the Bill, and that this measure had nothing whatever to do with the relief of distress. Yet the motion adopted in the House of Commons was based entirely on the distressed condition of the clergy. I am very glad, however, we have now got rid of the question of distress. As a matter of fact this Bill will not relieve distressed clergy; the relief goes to the clergy who are least in need of it. I will cite two cases given by the Church Party in the appendix to this Report. One is the case of a clergyman in receipt of £1,400 a year. Out of that there are several deductions, with the result that his net income is £684, and his total poor rate £148. Under this Bill he would receive £74. The other case is that of a clergyman with £116, but he with that small income would only receive under the Bill £2 16s.; and this is a Bill for the relief of the distressed clergy! At any rate that was the object for which it was originally brought in. It is really a dole to the clergy, and it has all the characteristics of a dole. There is no principle of rating underlying it. I defy any hon. Gentleman to point out a single underlying principle. If there were a question of rating or deductions, then there might be some principle involved, but the only result of this measure in the form in which it stands is, that gentlemen who pay large sums of money for curates will get very little. Here is a case in point.

Mr. Lloyd-George.

A clergyman in receipt of £257 a year keeps two curates, and his net income is £51. He would receive only £13 3s. under the Bill. Take a similar case as far as income is concerned. A clergyman is in receipt of a net income of £244; he has not got to pay curates, there are no deductions, but he gets £23 under the Bill. If there were any principle of rating or any proper deductions to be made in respect of services or the employment of curates, the first man would get four times as much as the second. But of course there is no principle of rating involved. The Bill is simply a dole given to a number of clergymen. There is really no ground on which this Bill can be defended except on the ground of emergency. It is said that the clergy are suffering very considerably in the matter of rating, but so are other classes, and the whole question is: why should clergymen have their grievances remedied now, instead of waiting for the Report of the Royal Commission, like any other section of the community who are suffering exactly the same grievances? Why should not the grievances of the urban tradesman and manufacturer be redressed? No case of emergency has been made out. The only case of emergency would be the case of distress, but that has been abandoned. The real emergency exists in the case of the urban tradesman and manufacturer. What is the state of the case? Before the Tithe Commutation Act, land in this country bore two-thirds of the whole burden of local taxation, and houses, factories, mills, and mines only bore a third. What is the case at the present moment? Owing to the energy and industry of the people, rateable property has been created throughout the country, and the rates upon land have gone down from an average of about 4s. in the £1 to something like 2s., and so far from land bearing two-thirds of the burden it now only pays an eighth of the whole taxation. Something has been said about the new rates which advancing civilisation has cast upon the land, but they amount to only 4d. in the £1 in the case of land, though they are 3s. 8d. in the £1 on dwelling-houses and factories.

MR. SETON-KARR: May I ask what authority the hon. Member has for his figures?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The Report of the Local Taxation Commission, issued in 1893 by the House of Commons. The owner of property whose burden has been lightened from two-thirds to one-eighth now comes to the owner of property whose burden has been increased from one-third to seven-eighths, and says, "You must relieve me again to the extent of one-half." It is said that the tithe-owner is rated upon his income, but the urban tradesman is very often rated on more than his income. Take the case of the tradesman who paid £600 a year rent, £160 a year in taxes, and it was stated in evidence that he barely made a living. Yet he is rated on his income. The case of the urban ratepayer is much worse. The case of the parson is that of a gentleman who has got his income assured. That income is a first charge upon the whole land of the parish. His work is not too hard; he lives in very healthy surroundings, and under very pleasant conditions. But the tradesman works from eight o'clock in the morning till eight, ten, and twelve o'clock at night, the whole of his family assisting him. He is troubled with bad seasons and bad debts, and he sometimes does not make any income at all, and yet he is rated twice as much, or even more, than the rural clergyman. Anyone who scans the bankruptcy returns can see what a difference there is between the urban ratepayer and tradesman and the parson. Last year there were just sixteen clergymen against whom receiving orders were made, while there were 3,500 receiving orders against tradesmen. What does that mean? It means that in many cases the urban tradesman pays rates not only upon the whole of his income, but pays rates when he makes no income at all, and yet he is called upon to bear half the burden of these clergymen, whose average income is £450 throughout the kingdom. I do not think any case has been made out for this Bill. Quite the reverse. It is one of the worst Bills ever introduced into this House. It is a clear case of class legislation. It is what is known in bankruptcy as a "fraudulent preference," a preference of one class of creditor against another, and I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the House of Commons, even at this last moment, ought to reconsider their decision and throw out the Bill.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I must congratulate the Government upon having reached this stage of the Bill, but I am bound to say that neither my constituents nor myself have any enthusiastic admiration for the tactics which have chosen the present time for the introduction of the measure. I have the honour to hold a rather precarious seat for my Party, and I fail to understand why the Government should have introduced this Bill within what has been called "the zone of a general election." I am surprised that the Government did not deal with the question three years ago when the Agricultural Rating Bill was before the House. As they let that opportunity pass, I cannot understand why the Government should not have waited until the full Report of the Royal Commission had been presented. Right hon. Gentlemen the Members of the Government know their own business best, I suppose; but I doubt whether the game is worth the candle or whether the result will be equal to the expenditure. But as things are, from my knowledge of public feeling with regard to the Bill, I would say that if an election were contested on the subject in my part of the country, a good many of my friends and myself would be "food for powder." I have often heard of throwing a sprat to catch a whale, but I do not think that a committee of experts would ever have recommended the throwing of a whale to catch a sprat. Probably the Government know best. I do not set myself down as an expert in political meteorology. I am only an agricultural Member, whose ideas are not supposed to soar above prices of wheat or the statistics of swine fever, and therefore I hope the Government may be right and that I may be wrong. All I can do is to say that as far as I am concerned I have done my duty. I have followed them loyally into the Lobby in nearly every Division, because I believe in the principle of the measure, whatever I may think of its timeliness. I congratulate them on their courage, and I have only to hope that upon this point the Government will prove to be right and meet with the reward they deserve.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I imagine it will be the general wish of the House, assisted by the state of the thermometer, that the Debate should not be continued to

any unreasonable length. I am conscious of the fact that I have already more than once had the opportunity of speaking to the House on this subject. But there are a few words I may say still. We have now arrived at the last stage in the career of this Bill. My hon. and gallant friend who has just sat down has given it what I suppose he would consider his parting blessing. I rise for a similar purpose. I do not know that there will be very much difference in the end, in the effect of my blessing and that of my hon. and gallant friend. But the first thing I feel compelled to do by the impression that has been made upon me by the discussions on this Bill is to acknowledge the great ability, dexterity, and adroitness with which the Minister for Agriculture has conducted the proceedings in regard to the measure. He has had a difficult task to perform. The case for the Bill was not an altogether easy one to sustain, and the right hon. Gentleman was, to our great surprise, left almost alone in the execution of his task. Until the Leader of the House came in just now he was sitting between the Solicitor-General and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who, like Aaron and Hur in the case of Moses, should have been always ready to uphold his hands. But, although the Solicitor-General, than whom there is no one better qualified for making a doubtful case appear a good one, and whose name is on the back of this Bill, has sat a good deal in the House during our discussions, yet on no principal occasion, and only on some subordinate points, has he offered any assistance to the Minister for Agriculture. And this is a Bill which, the House will bear in mind, deals with taxation, with finance, and with money, and where was the Chancellor of the Exchequer until this evening during the whole of these proceedings? The Chancellor of the Exchequer has not always been so reticent on the subject of this Bill, or, at any rate, on the proposal which the Bill embodies. He has spoken with great clearness and emphasis upon it on more than one occasion, and he was put forward on those occasions as the fit and proper mouthpiece of the Government. But the entire conduct of this Bill has been left to the Minister for Agriculture, and I am bound to say he has done all that any man could do single-handed to justify the position in which he found himself. The most obvious and, in fact,

the only serious reason for this measure is, of course, the hardship which has come upon certain of the clergy owing to the great fall in the value of the tithe and to the consequent comparative pressure of the local rates upon them. In the dawn of this Parliament the first thing that Her Majesty's Government made the House to do was to attempt to mitigate a genuine hardship of precisely the same character and arising from precisely the same cause, which was bearing upon the occupiers of agricultural land. On that occasion the remedy was found in relieving them of half the local rates, and this relief was given blindly, without any distinction, without any recognition of local circumstances, or of those great varieties which we know exist in what is known as agricultural distress. I will not inquire whether the relief went to the farmer or to the landlord. I am afraid we shall always differ on that point. But that was not a point of much importance in the eyes of the Government, because they are accustomed to regard both those classes as equally their acknowledged and constant friends, and now they have been anxious, apparently before the shades of the Parliamentary evening fall upon us, to confer a corresponding boon upon another equally active and equally important class of their supporters—namely, the country clergymen. Accordingly, their rates are also to be relieved by one-half, equally at the cost of the public taxpayer. That is a plain statement of what has occurred. That is the policy. It is not a casual or accidental policy. It is a policy which is deliberate and of set purpose: a policy, namely, of giving pecuniary relief to certain favoured classes politically useful to the party in power, who receive the subsidy and are expected to be grateful for it, while the funds to enable this to be done are provided in such a manner as to ensure that those out of whose pockets they come should be as little as possible conscious of the contribution they are making. But that fact does not make the contribution in the least degree less real or substantial. Now, that is the policy; and I must say of it that within our recollection we have never seen it adopted by any Administration in this country until the present Government came into office. If we dive into remote history, perhaps, we should find cases of it, but few, if any, in which it has been done in so unblushing a

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

manner as here ; and the worst of it is we have no security that the chapter is yet closed. The special friends of the Government are not yet exhausted. There may be more to come. They have no more solid supporters than the licensed vendors of intoxicating liquor. Well, these gentlemen also could make a terrible case against the rates they have to pay. They are, most of them, in towns where nothing has been done to modify or to relieve the burden of rates in any degree. And then, before you come to the rates, they groan under the necessity of paying for licences, which of itself ought to appeal for sympathy to so soft-hearted a Government as this. But, leaving these speculations as to the future, let us consider what has happened with regard to these two cases which I have named. I leave out of consideration the question of the Church Schools Act, which gave a subvention to the denominational schools, because that was mixed up with other matters and is not precisely similar. But I note this fact, that when the farmers' grievance was in question, when the farmer was the principal person on the stage, with the landlord executing a sort of shadow dance behind him, in those days there was no attempt to blink the fact that the appeal was made to us on the pure ground of the distressful nature of his condition, owing to the fall in prices, to bad seasons, and keen competition, and it was on those grounds that he received relief. But when we come to the clergy, although the ground of the claim is, as I have said, precisely similar, and arises from precisely the same cause, yet I do not think anybody can seriously deny that the appeal to our kindlier feelings is altogether repudiated, and what is put forward is the grievance, the injustice, of the present law of rating. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill could hardly contain his indignation when we implied that mercy was the keynote of his measure. He went on stern and simple justice alone. But the truth is that the right hon. Gentleman saw, what has been pointed out by more than one speaker to-day, how unworthy and humiliating a thing it would be for a great and rich and wealthy church like the Church of England to come to this House of Parliament or to the taxpayer. *in forma pauperis.* And, accordingly, this question of injustice was put forward. But where is the injustice ? It

has been proved over and over again that all the parson is entitled to by law, by prescription, by theory, by immemorial usage and practice is that which remains of the tithe after the claim of the poor has been satisfied, and the rates are not charged, as is alleged, upon his income, but are charged upon the tithes before they have assumed the character of income. And as to the rates, the figures quoted by my hon. friend the Member for Carnarvon show conclusively that since the settlement of 1836, at which time the rates were amply allowed for, there has been no increase in the rates, but, on the contrary, an almost universal and considerable decrease. It is not the rates that have increased ; it is the tithes that have decreased, and that is the foundation of the whole grievance. That is the real hardship, but it is a hardship which is shared by the landowner equally with the tithe-owner. It is shared by all men who have realised property, by the fund holder, and even, in a large number of cases, by members of the community engaged in business. The Government, however, hold that the law of rating is unjust. Holding that opinion, do they amend the law ? No, Sir, they do not amend the law ; they leave the law as it stands. And why ? For this very simple reason. If they were to proceed to amend the law, the alteration in the law of rating must be made to apply to all tithes whether in clerical, collegiate, or in lay hands. The Government have no desire to confer a benefit upon the lay tithe-owner. He has done nothing for them. There has been and there will be no value received, and, therefore, they confine themselves to the simple bestowal of a gift upon their friends the clergy—a gift of half their rates, which is recouped out of the money of the general taxpayer. I was amazed to hear the hon. Gentleman the Member for Stratford-on-Avon maintain at considerable length and with great force and evident conviction the extraordinary doctrine, with which we have been so troubled of late, that because a certain source of revenue is ear-marked for certain purposes, therefore all the people in this country who do not contribute to that revenue contribute nothing to that particular purpose. The hon. Member said it was nonsense to talk of small householders having anything to pay on this account, because it came out of the death duties. But, obviously, you cannot follow up

money that has come from the estate duty and confine it to that particular origin. All taxes are paid into a general fund, and if this money which comes from the estate duty is diverted to the relief of the clergy, then, you may depend upon it, other money coming from other sources will be required in order to take the place of the money that is so diverted. Well, Sir, here is the triumph of these friends of the Church, the apostles of justice who sit on the Treasury Bench. The poor vicar or curate labouring, with altogether insufficient means, with unquenchable zeal and self-sacrifice, and with very little praise given, in the slums of our great cities, gets nothing. We hear so much nowadays of the great strides that have been made by the Church of England, of the spirit she has shown, of the extension she has given to her good work. She has taken up a place far beyond that which she occupied forty or fifty years ago, and to her eternal credit it will be remembered of her. But where has that been? It has been in the large cities, in the centres of population, and in these crowded places. And the clergymen who labour there, and to whose zeal she owes her new position in the country receive, nothing. The poor country parson, hardly able to maintain his social position, and if he has a wife and children perhaps barely able to keep body and soul together, receives a miserable mouthful. But the rich donation and the full relief is reserved for the wealthy country clergyman, and it so happens that the wealthy country clergyman is also the most important in his political influence. I confess that a more disheartening endeavour—disheartening, I mean, to those who wish to see the tone of public life maintained in this country—to do kind things at other people's expense, to those who are the political supporters of the Government, I have never seen. I do not wish to repeat the detailed arguments that we have listened to in the course of this Debate; I content myself with this general survey. But we on this side of the House may reflect with satisfaction that we warned the Government against this Bill, that we raised our voices against it on its first introduction, that we have exposed again and again its inconsistencies, its inequalities, its meannesses, in Committee and at other stages, and we have protested by our vote against it. But now it will pass. Let it go. Let

it pass. We can but denounce the measure as one of gross injustice, injustice as between class and class in the community; injustice as between man and man among the clergy themselves, and I would add that I make bold to say that it will deal—nay, it has already dealt—a heavy blow to the dignity, the interests, and the spiritual influence of the great Church in whose name it has been promoted.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, (Manchester, E.): I agree with one observation, and, so far as I am aware, with but one observation, of the right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down, and that is that the period has perhaps now arrived when the Debates on this Bill may fitly be brought to a termination. And I can assure the House that I, at all events, shall not separate it long from the final stage of this Bill. Clearly, the right hon. Gentleman, as might have been expected from his previous utterances and the previous utterances of others upon his side of the House, regards this Bill as one of immense electoral advantage to his party. They are never tired of explaining what an excellent effect it has already had upon bye-elections in the past and what an excellent effect it may be expected to have upon general elections to come. But, Sir, a Bill which is thus advertised as a Bill of great electoral efficiency, I have observed, usually means a Bill which can be very easily and satisfactorily misrepresented upon public platforms by those who desire to turn it to political account. Certainly, if the speech which we have just listened to is a specimen of the speeches which are to be delivered in the future, upon occasions to which the right hon. Gentleman looks forward with so much satisfaction, misrepresentation, I imagine, can hardly reach a higher level. The whole point of the right hon. Gentleman's remarks may be summed up in a few words. It is that this is a Bill nominally and professedly brought forward in the interests of justice, but really and truly and according to the inward verity of the situation brought forward as a bribe to certain persons who are in the habit of giving political support to Her Majesty's Government. That is his statement. It was not merely a single statement, it was the thread of the argument, or rather, I should say, the thread of the insinuation

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

which ran through every phase and every sentence of the right hon. Gentleman's speech. He gave us a plain statement of what he called the set policy of the Government when he described this proposal as a simple political bonus given in return for favours received and in the hope of favours to come from the clergy. Now, Sir, I think that that is not only a very unjust view, but I think it is a view which has so little foundation that a person in the right hon. Gentleman's high position and with his high character ought not to have indulged in it even in the heat of the controversy which this Bill has aroused. He must know perfectly well that men have set their hand and seal to the doctrine which we maintain—namely, that this is an injustice which ought to be relieved—men who are wholly outside and beyond the degrading suspicion which the right hon. Gentleman is prepared to throw against every man on this side. I do not quote again the honoured names of persons who do not agree with me in politics, who certainly have no favours to receive in the future from the country clergymen as they have received none in the past, and who have set their names to the Report on which this Bill is founded. And if we go back to names still further in the past, are we to be told that a doctrine which has been advocated by such men as Mr. Gladstone and Sir George Cornewall Lewis, cannot be advocated by gentlemen on this side of the House without throwing those gentlemen open to the suspicion that they are occupied in some great scheme of public and Parliamentary corruption? The right hon. Gentleman repudiates the doctrine we have put forward, when we say that this Bill is not founded upon the amount of tithe rent-charge, but is founded upon the inherent injustice of the whole system of rating of the tithe rent-charge, whether tithe rent-charge be high or whether it be low. He says we should never have heard of this grievance if tithe rent-charge had remained high. When Mr. Gladstone dealt with this matter, in words that have already been quoted, tithe rent-charge was not at 60 or 70, as it is now; it was at 103, and the arguments which satisfied him that this was a case of injustice when the tithe rent-charge was at 103 surely do not lose their weight now that tithe rent-charge has fallen to 60 or 70. The right hon. Gentleman, pursuing his line of

attack, told us that in dealing with the clergy we had committed, as it were, a double crime—that we had, in the first place, selected the country clergy who do not require assistance, or at all events who do not carry on the great work of the Church, instead of the town clergy, and that among the country clergy we had chiefly chosen as the subjects of our ill-timed and almost corrupt benevolence, not the poor, but the rich. Well, Sir, the right hon. Gentleman forgot that about 11,000 clergy will receive relief under this Bill, and of those 11,000 clergy 8,000 have less than £160 a year. And when he talked of rich clergy who are to be benefited by it, I would remind him that 255 persons, and 255 persons alone, among the clergy who are to be relieved under this Bill have a gross income exceeding £500 a year. Yet the right hon. Gentleman has the courage to tell us that it is in order to bribe these 255 clergy who have more than £500 a year—that it is because we are so impressed by their electoral capacity and their electoral influence—that it is to please them alone, this handful of 255 individuals in the whole length and breadth of England, that we are bringing in this Bill. That contention is so preposterous that that mere statement of figures is enough to dispose of it. As to the town clergy, I associate myself with the right hon. Gentleman in all that he has said with regard to the inadequate means on which many of the town clergy are carrying on their great work in the centres of population, and I wish, not only that the stipends of those clergy could be increased, but that their number could be augmented. I agree with the right hon. Gentleman, and I wish that more funds could be devoted to that great object, though I do not suggest that a Church which has raised for such purposes seven or eight million pounds in the course of one year is a Church which deserves to be stigmatised as lacking in public spirit or niggardly in action. But we grant that, much as the clergy in the towns demand our sympathy and our assistance, it is to the members of the Church of England and not to the House of Commons, or the taxpayer or the ratepayer, that they must appeal, and I doubt not the Church will respond to that appeal. If we come to the House of Commons, it is

not to relieve the poverty of the clergy of the Church, it is not to give them increased means of subsistence, however desirable those increased means of subsistence may be; we come to the House of Commons, and we come to Parliament because they, and they alone, are the people who have it in their power to remedy a great injustice which they have consciously or unconsciously done, and I rejoice to think that in spite of the attacks

made upon this Bill this House at all events, I believe with the support of the country behind it, has not shown itself unequal to the task which justice has imposed on it.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 182; Noes, 117. (Division List, No. 285.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Baillie, James E. B. (Inverness)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bartley, George C. T.
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)
Bethell, Commander
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.
Biddulph, Michael
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Capt. R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hon. AGH (City of Lond.)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Gull, Sir Cameron
Gunter, Colonel
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hardy, Laurence
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Henderson, Alexander
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstd.)
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, Henry
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Howard, Joseph
Howell, William Tudor
Howorth, Sir Henry Hoyle
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Kewick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)

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Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Jos. Powell. (Birm.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)

Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. S.-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES

Abraham, W. (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allison, Robert Andrew
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. Henry
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clough, Walter Owen
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Crilly, Daniel
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardig'n)
Davitt, Michael
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Owen Morgan
Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)

Evershed, Sydney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, K. C. Munro (Leith)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Eamond
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir Wm. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
Hazzell, Walter
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sir U.
Kilbride, Denis
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Leuty, Thomas Richmond
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. M.A. (Queen's C.)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Ewan, William
M'Ghee, Richard
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morley, Rt. Hon. J. (Montrose)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)

O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease-Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Perks, Robert William
Pickard, Benjamin
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Briggs (Yorks.)
Randell, David
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, David Alfd. (Merthyr)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wedderburn, Sir William
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. M'Arthur.

Main Question put, and agreed to.—
Bill read the third time, and passed.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): Clause 8, as the House will remember, prohibits any persons having in their possession, or selling, or exposing for sale, margarine which which has been enriched with more than $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of butter. As I pointed out yesterday, the Governors of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and several poorhouse authorities, in accordance with their desire to give the poor inmates something which they consider more palatable and better than the

highest grade of margarine, have issued tenders for large quantities of margarine mixture, in which they stipulate the mixture shall contain at least 20 per cent. of butter. A good many hundreds of tons are distributed annually in this way among the inmates of the various unions. There can be in this case no doubt as to adulteration. The right hon. Gentleman told us the other day that you could make as palatable margarine containing not more than 5 per cent. of butter fats, but the authorities I have named would hardly go to the cost of 10s. a hundredweight extra for this mixture if they could get as good and palatable an article in the shape of a cheaper and poorer grade of margarine, and the result of this clause will

be to deprive these poor people of 15 of their 20 per cent. of butter. The object of the Amendment, which I move on behalf of my hon. friend the Member for Dundee, is to raise the limit of the butter fats to the same standard as is now allowed—namely, 30 per cent. The fact that boards of guardians and the county councils are inviting by tender mixtures containing 20 per cent. of butter fats, shows that they at least regard such an article as being more perfect than that which contains only 10 per cent. It is not conceivable that we have arrived at the end of the age of invention in this matter, and it is quite possible that in some half dozen years a more wholesome food may be invented, consisting of a mixture of a greater amount of butter with margarine than I now propose; but such a thing will be prevented if this Clause 8 is not amended. Some chemists have already discovered a method of propagating the microbe which gives off the butter acids in a particular emulsion, and there is no reason why those chemists should not succeed in making butter by a purely scientific profess.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 17. to leave out the word 'ten,' and insert the word 'thirty'—(Sir Charles Cameron)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the word 'ten' stand part of the Bill."

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, West Derby): I hope the House will not accept the Amendment, for reasons very much the same as I gave yesterday dealing with the justification of the clause as a whole. Beyond those reasons which were directed to the merits of the question itself may I say that the figure in the Bill of 10 per cent. is justified as a reasonable compromise between the demand on the one hand to limit the mixture to 5 per cent. and the proposal now made. It is a compromise based on the advice and opinion of expert knowledge. I set up no opinion of my own. There is undoubtedly a very large demand for genuine margarine, and this article of the best quality can be produced with 3 or 4 per cent. of butter fat; therefore this proposed extension is not required to secure margarine of good quality. There is also a

demand for genuine butter, and it is against the illegal mixture of the two with the intention of deceiving purchasers that Clause 8 is directed. The supply of margarine at margarine price will not be interfered with. If the condition is to be a fair one, which can be easily worked so that manufacturers may keep within the law, there must be a reasonable margin and then the law will not be oppressive. The limitation proposed will prevent fraudulent sale and make it not only possible but easy in every way for the manufacturer to produce the best article he can and put it on the market at the price it ought to command.

MR. KILBRIDE (Galway, N.) supported the limit of 10 per cent., and expressed surprise that the right hon. Member for Bridgeton, having regard to the views he expressed, had not attempted to repeal the Margarine Act altogether. After a Parliamentary experience of twelve years it was only now that the right hon. Member for Bridgeton was struck by the fact that it was a proper thing to allow mixtures of margarine and butter to be sold as a mixture. He advocated that principle now in the interest of the paupers. He did not agree with the right hon. Member, and if the Government would not make the limit of butter fats allowed in margarine less than 10 per cent. he would have to accept that limit.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): The hon. Member who has just sat down appears to have misunderstood the point of the clause. All that the Act of 1887 did was to say that whatever proportion of butter was put into margarine the margarine must be sold as margarine. I am sorry the right hon. Gentleman has been so unyielding with regard to this matter, and perhaps even now he would make some compromise. The Amendment asks for 30 per cent.; but perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would accept that percentage which the county councils require when they invite tenders—namely, 20 per cent. In my opinion the Amendment is a reasonable one, and having regard to the fact that contracts are now running for the supply of margarine with 30 per cent. of butter, I hope the right hon. Gentleman will be able to see his way to accept it.

Sir Charles Cameron.

MR. JEFFREYS (Hants, Basingstoke) : We on this side of the House hope that if the Government do anything at all it will lower the limit to less than 10 per cent. The effect of giving a higher limit would entirely frustrate the object of the Bill. That the London County Council adopted a mixture of 20 per cent. of butter was, I suppose, due to their ignorance, because in countries where margarine is made to the greatest extent, in many cases the admixture of butter is prohibited altogether, and not allowed to be sold at all.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said he was not much moved by the practice in other countries, where the economic conditions might not be analogous to those of this country. It appeared to him that the only question to be dealt with was whether there should be a little more or a little less butter in the margarine, and the best way to settle that matter would be to have a few samples in the Tea Room, when they might be able to decide which was the better article of food.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) said he should support the Amendment, for the

reason that the clause as it stood would interfere with the contracts which were running.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) : Before you put the question, Sir, I think we are entitled to an answer from the Law Officer of the Crown as to the manner in which the contracts will be affected if this Amendment is not carried.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire) : I should like to associate myself with the remark of the hon. Member who has just spoken. I think we ought to have some answer from the Solicitor-General as to this.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) : No single case has been stated of a contract which will extend over January 1st, 1900, and this Bill is not to come into force until that date.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 131 ; Noes, 48. (Division List, No. 286.)

AYES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Hogan, James Francis
Bailey, James (Walworth)	Curzon, Viscount	Howard, Joseph
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manc'r)	Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Howell, William Tudor
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)	Dillon, John	Hozier, Hon. Jas. Hen. Cecil
Barnes, Frederic Gorell	Donelan, Captain A.	Hudson, George Bickersteth
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Doogan, P. C.	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Johnston, William (Belfast)
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Bethell, Commander	Fellowes, Hon. Alwyn E.	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. Wm.
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.	Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)	Keswick, William
Biddulph, Michael	Finch, George H.	Kilbride, Denis
Bigwood, James	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Knowles, Lees
Bill, Charles	Fisher, William Hayes	Laurie, Lieut.-General
Bousfield, William Robert	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)	Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'ns &
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Giles, Charles Tyrrell	Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Bullard, Sir Harry	Godson, Sir A. Frederick	Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Burns, John	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Macaleese, Daniel
Butcher, John George	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Carlisle, William Walter	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	Macdona, John Cumming
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo's)	MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Gull, Sir Cameron	Maclare, Sir John William
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.	Melville, Beresford Valentine
Charrington, Spencer	Hanson, Sir Reginald	Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Hare, Thomas Leigh	Milward, Colonel Victor
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Harwood, George	Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.	Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Condon, Thomas Joseph	Henderson, Alexander	More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Hickman, Sir Alfred	Morton, Arthur, H.A. (Deptford)
Cornwallis, F. F. Stanley W.	Hill, Arthur (Down, West)	Nicholson, William Graham
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)	Parkes, Ebenezer

Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Purvis, Robert
 Randell, David
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles

Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strachey, Edward
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Valentia, Viscount
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.

Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell (Biru.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walron and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Wm. (Gateshead)
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Billson, Alfred
 Bond, Edward
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John T.
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur

Fenwick, Charles
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hazell, Walter
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Acreington)
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lough, Thomas
 M'Killop, James
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)

Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. P. J.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Charles Cameron and
 Mr. Colville.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): The Amendment which I propose is a protection to really honest tradesmen. The clause now makes it a crime to sell this material as margarine if it contains more than 10 per cent. of butter. I cannot see why people should not have margarine in any way they like, provided they know they are buying it. If the small dealer buys this material honestly believing that it contains 10 per cent. or less of butter, and if by any accident it turns out to contain more than 10 per cent. of butter, he is liable to be punished in a very severe manner. The Amendment I propose is that if he buys this article as *bond fide* margarine containing more than the prescribed quantity of butter, if he can prove that he bought it believing it to be what it professed to be, he shall not be liable. The words I propose are taken from the Margarine Act, and it seems to me an extraordinary thing that the Government should refuse to accept these words. We are making drastic laws by which we hope to prevent fraud, but surely it is a new departure altogether that a man honestly carrying on his business and taking every conceivable precaution should be punished, when he is not the real offender, and when he can prove

conclusively that he is not in any way to blame. That seems an extraordinary state of things for a new law to create, and it is contrary to the spirit of justice in every sense. The only alternative would be that every small trader would have to have this material analysed himself, for although the invoice may state that the material comes within the law, if it is proved outside the law, the man who has taken all these precautions will be liable to punishment. I was given to understand that the Government would accept this as a reasonable Amendment, but now it appears that they think this is not right, although I cannot for the life of me see why we should have this drastic law, and not be satisfied with the punishment of the real criminal, but go on punishing a man who is carrying on a legitimate business in the best possible way he can. I am as strong as anyone in my desire to put a stop to fraud, but by this proposal of the Government we are harassing the small tradesmen in a most unreasonable manner. The large tradesman can look after himself, and it would pay him to have this material analysed; but to suppose that a man in a small way of business could bear the expense of having everything

analysed seems to me to be a most unreasonable thing. I urge that these words should be inserted to protect tradesmen who are honestly carrying on their business, for my proposal does not protect any man who cannot show that he has taken every reasonable precaution. If a tradesman can prove to the satisfaction of the court that he has taken every reasonable precaution, and that his offence is entirely due to the misstatements of those persons from whom he buys the goods, it seems to me that he should not be liable. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 21, to leave out from '1887' to end of clause, and insert the words 'unless he shows to the satisfaction of the court before whom he is charged that he purchased the article in question as margarine, containing not more than 10 per cent. of butter fat, and with a written warranty or invoice to that effect; that he had no reason to believe at the time when he sold it that the article was other than margarine containing not more than ten per cent. of butter fat; and that he sold it in the same state as when he purchased it; and in such case he shall be discharged from the prosecution, but shall be liable to pay the costs incurred by the prosecutor unless he shall have given due notice to him that he will rely upon the above defence.'"—(Mr. Bartley.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I think I can satisfy the hon. Member that this Bill, as drawn, meets all the ordinary cases which he is anxious to provide for, and that the Amendment will not provide for the ordinary cases, but only for cases which very rarely indeed occur, and would exclude what my hon. friend desires to be done in the ordinary cases. The section provides that it is no longer possible to sell margarine under a certain standard, but it also includes Section 7 of the Margarine Act. My hon. friend proposes to strike that out altogether, and proposes to provide only for the case of the tradesman who has bought the article as margarine. I would point out to my hon. friend that that is almost an impossible case. The case we have to deal with is one where the wholesale dealer has fraudulently sent to the tradesman as butter an article which is really a mixture

of margarine and butter. My hon. friend has really left out the case that will frequently occur, and has provided for an almost impossible case. If my hon. friend can show me that there is any reasonable probability that such cases may occur, we will consider the advisability of dealing with the matter in another place.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I agree with the Solicitor-General as to the general effect of this Amendment and the non-necessity for it. The clause provides that any offence under Section 7 of the Margarine Act will be an offence under this Act. I desire to point out that you cannot regulate exactly this percentage, for it must of necessity depend upon the richness of the milk and the season at which the margarine is made. I have no doubt it will not be in the interests of margarine manufacturers to sell a higher mixture of butter than is stipulated for, for it is nearly always the person who invites tenders who stipulates that the margarine shall contain a certain percentage of butter. Then, again, analysts are not infallible; and organic analysis, especially as to fat, is not a science of mathematical precision. Everything has to be estimated, and unless you allow some margin you may have cases of very great injustice. In regard to the adulteration of coffee and chicory, I remember that a mixture of ten per cent. of coffee and chicory was subjected to analysis by several analysts, and not one of them gave the correct proportions. In analysing margarine, it is a matter of estimation as to the amount of fat, and this varies at different seasons, and unless you have some proviso to protect the innocent seller against a vicious prosecution through faulty analyses I think a very grave injustice will be done.

MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): There seems to me to be a grievance in this matter, and I think we ought to allow a little margin. I hope the Solicitor-General will consult the right hon. Gentleman on that side of the House, and make some proposition in another place which will meet this case, because it may prove a very serious thing for the small trader who cannot afford to have all his goods analysed, and who may get into trouble through no fault of his own.

Question put, and agreed to.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: It is already provided that the word "margarine" must be placed on the article when it is being sold, and the wrappers in which it is sold also have to have the word "margarine" printed on them. Therefore, if the terms of the old Margarine Act are applied there is no possibility of fraud being practised. I desire to prevent the provisions of this Act being put aside so far as they are a protection to the seller. It is a well known fact that poor people have their pride as well as the rich. A poor woman will not go into a shop and ask for a pound of margarine, but she will generally ask for "a pound of sixpenny," or a pound of "that," and will point to the article she requires. If an inspector comes into the shop anxious to secure a conviction he will ask for a pound of sixpenny butter, and the sixpenny is handed out to him in the paper labelled "margarine." It is proposed to make the third conviction punishable by imprisonment, but if the prosecutions are under the Margarine Act there might be no third conviction of an employer, for in every one of the three cases the offence might be brought home to the offending individual; while if the same cases were taken under the Food and Drugs Acts they would count up against the employer, who might know nothing whatever about the transaction, and he would be liable to treatment as a criminal, subject to three months' imprisonment. I was told in Committee that the Margarine Act is not an adulteration Act, but now it is proposed to prevent an article being sold for what it is not. It appears to me that when all the requirements of the Margarine Act have been complied with there can be no pretence of any fraud, because even if an illiterate sees those large letters, all he or she has to do is to say, "I asked for butter and you have given me margarine." If the intention of this Act is to inflict punishment in the case of technical quibbles where there can be no intention to defraud, and where the nature of the article sold is openly declared, I think it is a gross injustice against which tradesmen have a right to protest. I beg to move:

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 24, after the word 'accordingly,' to insert the words, 'Provided always,

that in any prosecution under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act for the fraudulent or illegal sale of margarine, or any compound thereof, it shall be a good defence to prove that the requirements of the Margarine Act, 1887, as amended by this Act, had been complied with.'”—Sir C. Cameron.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: This section which the hon. Baronet proposes to add is a section dealing only with the case of the manufacture and sale of margarine containing more than 10 per cent. of butter fat, and should have been proposed as an Amendment to a previous clause.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I put it down as a separate new clause, but Mr. Speaker ruled it out of order.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: My hon. friend has got it down as a proviso dealing with a limited class of cases. Under his proposal the fraudulent seller could get off by showing that he had fixed a label or used a wrapper such as is mentioned in the Margarine Act. Suppose a poor person comes in and asks for butter, and is supplied with margarine at the price of butter, according to this proposal that shopkeeper will get off if he can show there is a wrapper upon it complying with the Margarine Act. Surely if it is established that the article sold is different from that for which the purchaser asks, and if the purchaser did not know that he was getting something totally different, the shopkeeper should not be able to get off by showing that the word "margarine" was printed upon the label.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Another Amendment made.

MR. J. H. JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham): The object of the Amendment which I have on the Paper is, as the House is well aware, to deal with a great quantity of condensed milk which finds its way into the market, and which is a very valuable and useful product, and is

heavily bought by the poorer portions of the community, who are strongly desirous of bringing up their children on milk. It contains all the essential properties of good milk, and is very popular from the very convenient form in which it is sold. I know from experience that it is a very useful and palatable food on which to bring up children. This has led to imitations of the commonest form, from which all the essential parts are taken away which are most necessary and most valuable for the health of the children. Instead of containing at least 3 per cent. of fatty matter, as good and proper milk should contain, this contains something less than 1 per cent. Putting it in another way, to get the same quantity of fat contained in good, sound fresh milk, you would have to put in sixteen pints of water. Imagine the result of that—the unhappy town infant getting this separated milk under the impression that it is sound and fresh, and then having to take not a double magnum, but sixteen pints. From experience of skimmed milk as well as fresh milk, I say that no sensible person would dream of bringing up the offspring of animals on it. They would not give separated milk to calves or young pigs without something else to help them along. It is a cruel thing that this should be thrown broadcast upon children, especially in our large towns, without a single word of warning to the poorest to prevent them knowing that this is not a food fit for young children. The very words which the section proposes to have put in the Bill, "separated milk or skimmed milk," are somewhat attractive and likely to deceive ignorant people. The words "separated milk" indicate to the minds of the purchaser that it is something particularly good and worth having, and when besides that it is sold at a cheaper rate than condensed milk the real danger comes in, and the real risk of innutritious and unwholesome food being given to the child and the consequent danger to the child's health. This is no imaginary case. The matter has been under the consideration of public authorities, and a large number of urban district councils are in favour of some such words as the Amendment suggests being inserted. The Report of a Committee of the House which has considered the matter suggests that all tins containing such milk should be required to bear

labels, on which the words "skimmed milk" are printed in large legible type. This has been adopted in the Bill, but it does not go far enough. The Report goes on to say that an additional notification should be printed that such milk is not suitable for purposes of feeding young children. I entirely agree with this recommendation, for I believe that the President of the Board of Agriculture is thoroughly aware of the mischief which arises from the sale of this product unchecked, and without its being brought to the notice of the purchaser what the real risk is. He has gone so far as to say the label must be printed on every one of the tins, showing the words "separated or skimmed milk." I ask him to go a little further in the interests of humanity, and make this a better Bill, and bring to the mind of the purchaser what I think is necessary, that these poor, ignorant people should be reminded that this condensed skimmed and separated milk is not fit for the food of infants.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 39, to insert the words after 'type,' with a statement that such milk is not suited for the food of infant children."—(Mr. J. H. Johnstone.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. LONG: I do hope that my hon. friend will not think it necessary to press this Amendment for reasons which I will very shortly give. He has stated quite accurately that I am aware of the fact that a great deal of mischief is done by giving food of this kind to young children. I should be very glad indeed if I could see my way in a Bill of this kind to check a system of that sort, but I would point out to my hon. friend, in the first place, that his Amendment would not have the effect he desires, while it would have a disadvantageous effect with regard to the use of these labels. What we want is that there should be a proper descriptive name upon certain articles when they are sold, and if the label which carries that description is to be of any real value, that description must be of the briefest possible kind, in order that

it may be perfectly clear. Many of the tins in which these articles are sold are very small, and there is very little room upon them to put anything in the way of a caution or explanation such as that suggested which will be easily seen. But if you add to the actual description of the article certain precautionary words of advice, it will only tend to obscure the other description without gaining the result which you seek. After all, what would be the result of putting words like this on the labels? I am very much afraid from such inquiries as I have been able to make that the knowledge which my hon. friends seek to impart is already in possession of most of the people who use this particular article. I am afraid also that it would not in any way deter the use of this article by simply putting those words on the label. How far it may be desirable to interfere with the right of individuals to buy what they think best for their purpose, and which they demand is another matter, but I am sure in a case like this it would be undesirable to do what my hon. friend has proposed. I do not think that the House of Commons ought to make itself responsible for words of this kind unless the House is absolutely sure that a declaration of that kind can be made and relied upon. I am informed that while by itself this kind of milk is an undesirable form of food, if the deficiencies are made up, as they can be, then it is not an undesirable form of food. I think what we have proposed carries us as far as we ought to go, and I submit that even if the words suggested were adopted they would not achieve the object in view. Under the circumstances I hope my hon. friend will not think it necessary to press his Amendment to a division.

In reply to Mr. TOMLINSON (Preston),

SIR R. B. FINLAY said : I think the expression "separated" or "skimmed milk" will very soon get to be thoroughly understood by everyone, and I do not think human ingenuity can invent any one word which will adequately convey this information.

MR. WARNER : Separated, or skim milk, may be very wholesome and nourishing, but it is not a right food for

Mr. Long.

infants, because it lacks the butter fat. This is an Amendment that ought to be considered. A double name is put on a medicine bottle when there is poison in it—the word "poison," as well as the name of the medicine. Now, this substance is practically a poison to infants, and the House of Commons ought to protect them from being poisoned. Hon. Gentlemen who look upon this matter from the farmer point of view do not see its importance. I consider this one of the most important Amendments on the Bill yet submitted. I can understand that there are objections to the size of the label put on a tin, but nobody would say that the word "poison" should be left out because the tin is small. Milk is generally understood to be a proper food for children, and people buy this stuff because they think it is milk. It is not real milk, since it does not contain butter fat.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Bright-side) : I have supported this Bill so far as I have thought it protected the public health, but I am surprised to find that when an Amendment is made which is directed to prevent the suffering and death of infants, the right hon. Gentleman should tell us that if these words are put on the label this milk would be bought more largely than it is. If that means anything it means that the wives of working men, who principally use this milk, intend to kill their children by administering to them this milk. That is a severe indictment.

*MR. LONG : I never suggested anything of the kind ; that is a gross misinterpretation of my words. What I said was, that the words suggested by my hon. friend would not have the effect he desired ; and I said that I believed the people who buy this milk know perfectly well that it is not the best food for infants, and if they could afford a better food for their children they would not buy this milk.

MR. MADDISON : Of course I do not wish to misrepresent the right hon. Gentleman, but his explanation amounts to the same thing. ("No, no.") What is the object of the hon. Member who moved this Amendment ? He made it perfectly

clear that it was to stop the sale of this milk for infants, and to warn parents against its use. The right hon. Gentleman says it will not have this effect, and that if persons buy milk bearing the label, "This milk is not for infants," they must buy it with very doubtful motives for their children. Does the right hon. Gentleman want to protect the health of the people? The very serious and appalling effects which follow the use of this milk have been pointed out, and all that the right hon. Gentleman says is that the true description of the article would take up too much room on the label. The Amendment is a rational one; it will not interfere with ordinary trading, and is directed to save infantile life; and I hope the hon. Gentleman will press it to a Division. I wish to ask the Solicitor-General, on behalf of the Health Committee of the Sheffield Town Council, whether the phrase "Condensed milk" would legally apply to preserved milk.

MR. BARTLEY: We have just settled to make it a criminal offence to put more butter into margarine, thereby making it better margarine than before. The hon. Gentleman asks that the label should really describe what is contained in the tin, and the right hon. Gentleman refuses to accept that Amendment. Surely it would be much more logical to say that this separated milk should not be sold for children than that margarine should not be sold because it was improved by the addition of butter. I am anxious that this Bill should be passed in the interest of justice and fairplay, but it seems to me, if we are going into these extraordinary anomalies, it would be better not to have the Bill at all.

MR. STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): The effect of this Amendment of the hon. Member for Sussex will be that people who buy this milk will do so with their eyes open. I cannot understand how the right hon. Gentleman says it will not have the slightest effect at all. We know that these things are bought by the poor, who think they are all right. When they buy a tin marked "Condensed Milk," they are not aware that it is only skim milk. This is not a purely agricultural question. Medical evidence has proved that large numbers of children

have been poisoned owing to the fact that they were fed on this stuff, which is not milk at all, but merely chalk and water. I most ardently support the Amendment.

MR. HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.): Many of us do not altogether agree with the terms of the Amendment, but I would ask my right hon. friend whether he would repeat the undertaking now which he gave on a former occasion, that he would consider this question.

***MR. LONG:** I did say I would do my best to find words which would convey the warning we all desire to convey. I will do my best to find such words. Some of my hon. friends tell me that they do not despair of finding words which would convey the necessary information. If they can assist me, nothing would give me more pleasure than to insert such words between now and the consideration of the Bill in another place.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): So long as the House was dealing with the clauses relating to margarine and butter I did not feel myself called upon to take any part in the discussion, because I believe that both margarine and butter are excellent things, and if a man got one instead of the other he might be swindled, but he would not be ruined in health. But now we are dealing with a matter which means ruin to the health of the most helpless part of the community; this milk, bad milk, would certainly have most dangerous effects if given to children. I would impress on the right hon. Gentleman not to proceed in the way he appears to be going, for the sake of being too pedantic about the words which should be used. All the galaxy of talent he has around him has apparently been brought into play in order to find words which would express the desired warning. My hon. friend below the gangway has some words on the Paper, but they are supposed to be objectionable.

***MR. LONG:** The reason is that the labels are very small, and if, in addition to the words describing the article, we were to add a sentence of this kind, the label would become obscured and practically worthless.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN : I cannot believe that there are any practical difficulties in the way of putting words on the label, however small, which would tell the people who buy this article for the purpose of giving it to children what they are buying. If they buy skim milk, let them know by written words on the tin, or vessel, that it is skim milk. I only press on the right hon. Gentleman not to be too fastidious. Even if the label is small it would hold words enough to express all that we desire to express.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) ; My hon. friend would be satisfied if the label contained the words, "Not suitable for infant children." All that this Amendment commits the House to is the principle that the label should contain a warning that this food is unfit for infant children. The right hon. Gentleman I am very glad to say has accepted the principle of the Amendment, and I would ask him that he should accept the Amendment as it stands.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) : The whole point is that poor people buy this skim milk without knowing that it has been skimmed, and they use it to feed their infants. Now I have an Amendment on the Paper which I think would meet the case, that on each label there should be these words, "This milk should not be used as food for infants." Could anything be simpler than that ?

MR. BARTLEY : May I suggest "Bad for babies" ?

MR. J. H. JOHNSTONE : All that we want is a statement that the milk is not fit for the food of infant children.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, North) : Will the right hon. Gentleman accept the word "Infanticide" ? That would consort with brevity, which we are told always commends itself to this House. Poor people who buy this milk do not understand what is meant by "separated milk."

MR. LOUGH : I want to say a word in assistance of the Government. I really think that having got an assurance from

the right hon. Gentleman, with the approbation of the Leader of the Opposition, he would consider this matter ; we are wasting our time in trying to devise the exact form of a label. I would suggest that the hon. Gentleman should withdraw this particular Amendment.

MR. J. H. JOHNSTONE : After the assurance given by the right hon. Gentleman, I ask the leave of the House to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.) : I have some hope that the right hon. Gentleman will accept my Amendment. I think I am right in saying that he undertook when the Bill was upstairs to consider whether some modification of the extreme penalty enacted in Sub-section 2 should not be considered between that period and the Report stage of the Bill. I contend that this sub-section imposes a punishment which is an outrage upon the most elementary ideas of justice. The clause says :

"Where, under any provision of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, a person guilty of an offence is liable to a fine which may extend to £20, he shall be liable for a second offence under the same provisions to a fine not exceeding £50, and for any subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding £100."

Now a fine of £100 is surely a most deterrent punishment in itself, but we have to consider also the disgrace of a conviction in open court along with the infliction of this fine. Then there is the injury done to the business and credit of the offender in being condemned before the public and before his own customers, and surely these are matters that ought to be considered when we are contemplating punishment under this clause. This consequential penalty is not considered in the clause at all, but it must enter into the element of justice in our consideration of the clause and its effect. For a third offence a person may be sent to prison for negligence for a period of three months. I maintain that that is a very outrageous punishment. Surely it is as unreasonable as it is unjust to send a man to undergo the terrible disgrace of imprisonment for

an act of negligence. I contend that no person is made honest by being sent to prison; on the contrary, it very often happens that the opposite result is the effect, and I feel so strongly on this point that I shall divide the House upon it unless I receive from the right hon. Gentleman an assurance that he will accept my Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 36, to leave out sub-section 2 of Clause 16."—(Mr. Davitt.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'negligence,' in line 39, stand part of the Bill."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: The hon. Member must be aware that this clause was not in the Bill as it originally stood, but was introduced in Committee in consequence of the strong feeling that was evinced that in the case of a third offence, due to the personal act, default, or negligence of the person charged, there should be some power given to the court beyond that of inflicting a fine. The House will observe that the sub-section is carefully guarded. Not only is it subject to the limitation I have pointed out, but the punishment of imprisonment does not necessarily follow. All that is given is power to inflict imprisonment if the court is of opinion that a fine will not meet the case.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I find myself bound to support my hon. friend the Member for South Mayo in proposing the omission of this sub-section. I have two reasons for doing so. In the first place, I do not think the Solicitor-General has attached sufficient importance to the main point of my hon. friend—namely, that in addition to the fine which is imposed upon a firm for a breach of the provisions of this Act there is added the enormous additional sentence of public disrepute. If you were to go to one of these large firms and ask them to choose between a fine of £1,000 and exposure in all the papers of the country for an offence under this Act, it would be found that there is not one large firm which would not willingly

prefer to pay £2,000, or even £3,000. That is my first reason for supporting the Amendment. I now come to my second reason. These large firms have a very large number of employees under their control, and a very large number of places of business. Take a firm like Lipton's, for instance. This is a firm, I suppose, which can count its shops by the hundred, and its employees by the thousand. We know that in a large business like this there are men of all kinds of character. I am glad to think that the majority of them are men of good character, desirous of doing their duty by their employers; but in a large body like this there must necessarily be men who are not honest, who are extremely malignant, and who, for good reasons or bad, bear a great deal of animosity against their employers, animosity which only wants an opportunity to be brought out. We know that in the great firm of Whiteley there was a certain amount of dissatisfaction amongst some section of the employees, with the result that several times in quick succession a portion of the premises was burnt down, and I believe I am correct in saying that no insurance office in the country could be persuaded to insure the premises of this firm, because it had been discovered that there was so much ill-feeling against the firm that the premises were always liable to incendiarism on the part of some of the employees. Anybody who has been in the position of having a large number of servants in his employ must know that he is constantly made responsible for acts for which he has no responsibility except of a purely technical character. I have frequently had to pay many hundreds and sometimes many thousands of pounds in consequence of the publication in newspapers with which I was associated of paragraphs or articles of which I not only did not approve but most strongly disapproved, but which were inserted in my absence. After all, however, the number of persons employed in newspaper offices is small compared with the number of persons employed in large businesses all over the country. I am quite sure that, with all the safeguards in the sub-section, it would open the way to malignant vindictiveness on the part of some sections of employees towards the large firms of which I have spoken. I think the imposition of these cumulative penalties, with the far greater and more

damaging penalty of exposure in the newspapers, is quite sufficiently vindictive without adding imprisonment to the sentence.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I rise to support the Amendment, and I do so not merely for the reasons mentioned by previous speakers, but because the sub-section would put to prison one man for the offence of another. The right hon. Gentleman said that the offence is for the personal act, default, or negligence of the individual charged. Well, it is rather a large order to give a man three months' imprisonment for personal negligence unless it is culpable negligence. Adulteration injurious to health is already punishable by imprisonment under the Adulteration Act of 1875, and I submit that it is not necessary to have any new penalties for that offence. Where a man is not personally responsible he should not be made criminally liable for the acts of others.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): I must express my astonishment at the hopelessly undemocratic nature of the sentiments of the hon. Member for South Mayo, who, in moving his Amendment, showed such a great desire to protect the great distributors. There can be no question of negligence whereby the conditions suppose that a man for the third time commits the same offence. Everybody who has had experience of the administration of the law knows that in a great number of cases there is the greatest difficulty in getting the court to impose a maximum fine. There is only one way of dealing with a case such as this, and that is to place on the Statute Book some clear indication that there are cases in which the court of summary jurisdiction can do something beyond imposing a fine, and deal with the rich tradesman who would rather pay £1,000 than go to prison.

MR. LOUGH thought the House ought not to go to the extreme length suggested in Section 2. Too severe penalties defeated their own object. Some of the crimes, moreover, were very slight. For instance, they actually proposed to make it possible to commit a man to prison for improving

Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

the quality of food. To leave it to the discretion of a judge or magistrate to put people into prison for the offences specified in the Act was, he thought, a very strong order indeed, and one which they should hesitate before adopting. It was all very well to say that these "crimes" could not be committed without personal knowledge, but a dozen could be committed without the person directly responsible knowing anything about it. He therefore hoped hon. Gentlemen on the opposite side would try to induce the Government to reconsider this matter.

GENERAL GOLDSWORTHY (Hammersmith) supported the sub-section, as he was very anxious that the public should be protected. The clause already protected the honest trader as much as any clause possibly could. The magistrate ought to ask himself: "What is the use of inflicting a fine? The defendant simply snaps his fingers at it."

MR. ROBSON (South Shields): This Amendment is certainly one of the most important proposals laid before the House in connection with this Bill. There is a well-defined principle in criminal jurisprudence which relegates all questions of negligence to the civil courts and all questions of criminal intent to the criminal courts. This clause proposes to obscure that distinction and to make questions of negligence strictly and entirely criminal offences. I know it is said "But it is not for the first offence that the negligent person is to be made liable for imprisonment; three acts of negligence must be recorded against him before he is made liable for hard labour." Three acts of negligence in a business in which there may be hundreds of transactions a day or hour! There are very few traders indeed who are not in some measure careless.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh!

MR. ROBSON: An hon. Member says "Oh." All I can say is, that anyone who is surprised at the carelessness of the trader knows but little of trading. There is nothing more simple and easy than carelessness both in manufacturing and trading operations. Increase the amount

of the fine if you like, and make the penalty large enough to absorb the whole of the profit which the adulterating trader is said to make, but do not make carelessness criminal. To make criminal the carelessness of the trader is, I venture to say, an outrageous proposal. I have been accustomed to many constitutional innovations in the sphere of criminal jurisprudence, but none more startling than this. The probability is, however, that the clause will defeat its own purpose. You will not get magistrates, when a fellow-creature is threatened with loss of character and life-long disgrace, to inflict this extreme and altogether inappropriate penalty. It is a disgrace to put such a clause upon the Statute Book. It is not usual, either in this country or any other, to make negligence a crime. I should like to know from what law the hon. and learned Member borrows the proposition that three acts of negligence should be equal to one crime. What a remarkable legal equation this is! I fail to see that any number of acts of negligence, however great, however serious, and however properly punished by extreme penalties, can be made equal to the smallest crime. I might reasonably have expected to see the Solicitor-General defending criminal jurisprudence instead of becoming a party with the Minister for Agriculture to such a remarkable obscuration of the law. It is not, moreover, easy to see on the face of the clause what are the precise offences to be punished. I have looked into the Sale of Food and Drugs Act of 1875. That Act makes punishable certain offences with fines, and provides that the offenders shall be punished by imprisonment, but it makes one very important exception which is lacking in this Act. By Section 6 of the Act of 1875 it is provided that the penal section—*i.e.*, the section inflicting criminal punishment—shall not apply if it be shown that there is an absence of knowledge on the part of the person accused. In that Act you have the very safeguard for which we are contending in this Act. It would have been much simpler if in looking to the Act of 1875 in order to strengthen the existing penalties the draughtsman had picked out from that Act the precise offences to which this new penalty is intended to apply. That, however, is a matter of detail. I have risen more especially to draw the atten-

tion of the House to Sub-section 2 of Clause 16, which is far more important than the questions of margarine and condensed milk, and I hope the Conservative instinct of hon. Members on the opposite side will be aroused against the alteration of the law as proposed in this sub-section.

MR. GRANT LAWSON (Yorks, N.R., Thirsk): I think my hon. and learned friend who has just sat down cannot practise very much in the criminal courts, otherwise he would have known that negligence is already a crime. Let a father or mother neglect their child, and see whether they do not fall under the Acts for the Protection of Children. I think my hon. and learned friend has not read the sub-section with great care. He said that a man might be sent to prison if on three occasions he allowed one of his employees to be guilty of negligence. That penalty, however, is only to be imposed if, in the opinion of the court, a fine does not meet the necessities of the case. I have great confidence in the way in which the law is administered in this country, and I do not think that a man would be sent to prison for some trifling neglect on the part of his employee. In some cases men make such profits by the sale of margarine and butter that they do not care for fines.

MR. PICKERSGILL: The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Hallam Division of Sheffield attributed to my hon. friend the Member for South Mayo a desire to shield the great distributors. For my part I have no desire, in supporting the Amendment, to protect the great distributors. The great distributors are very well able to take care of themselves. They always have the best legal advice, and it is not with any desire to stand between them and the law that I am supporting this Amendment. I am looking at the matter from the point of view of the small trader, in comparison with whom the large distributor will be in a position of great advantage. In the first place, may I point out that it will always be possible for the great distributor, the man who has an abundance of funds at his back, to appeal from the conviction of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction to Quarter Sessions, whereas a poor man, although technically having the same right, will practically be excluded from

taking full advantage of the law? It is difficult to ascertain, upon the spur of the moment, what will be the precise effect of this very drastic provision, but I believe that any man who sold for the third time margarine containing more than 10 per cent. of butter would be liable to imprisonment for three months. It is said, of course, on the other side, that we must rely upon the discretion of the court. We have been told that the section is carefully guarded, and it is perfectly true that the section says that imprisonment must only be awarded if the court is of opinion that a fine will not meet the necessities of the case. The hon. and learned Gentleman who preceded me said that we have confidence in the administration of justice. Admitting, and admitting as I do most cordially, that the public have confidence, as a rule, in the way in which justice is administered in this country, can we feel confidence in this particular case? I hope I am not saying anything which may give reasonable offence to the House, but a great deal of very strong feeling has been exhibited in relation to the offences with which this Bill will deal, and the justices who, in their discretion, will have to award imprisonment are drawn precisely from that class of society from which gentlemen are drawn who sit on that side of the House. Admitting, therefore, in general that we may fairly rely on the just administration of the law, I must say there is some reason to fear that prejudice may enter into the administration of this Act. I should like to ask a question which might change my attitude towards this portion of the Bill. Would the Government be willing to accept the Amendment, which stands later on the Paper, giving to the offender who, if convicted, would be liable to imprisonment, the right to demand trial by jury? If that concession were made by the Government it would certainly alter my attitude towards this clause, and I think before we vote upon it we have a right to know at what decision the Government have arrived in regard to it.

*MR. LONG: The Government cannot accept the Amendment to which the hon. Member refers, because it would alter the general law. It is not the case that these proposals represent a new departure in legislation. There is more than one

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precedent for it. Even the ingenuity of the hon. and learned Member could not draw a distinction between the section of an Act which gives the court the right to impose six months' imprisonment without the option of a fine, where the offence is one for exposing and offering for sale articles unfit for food, or fruit unfit for consumption. It not only gives the court power, without the option of a fine, to impose imprisonment for six months for the sale of unsound meat or unsound fruit, but the London Public Health Act of 1891 says that punishment may be inflicted for the first offence.

MR. ROBSON: Does the right hon. Gentleman suggest that there is no distinction between the case of exposing meat unfit for human consumption where the person charged knows it is to be such, and the offences under this Bill?

*MR. LONG: I am astonished at the hon. and learned Member's question. Even in the course of the past week there has been a notorious case mentioned in the newspapers, in which a defendant was charged with this offence, and in which he pleaded that he was not only not a party to the transaction, but that one of his own servants brought the matter under the notice of the officer of health. In the phraseology of the clause there is every protection for the honest trader or for the unfortunate man charged without being personally negligent or guilty. The clause was inserted in the Grand Committee in consequence of the almost unanimous opinion expressed during the debate on the Second Reading.

MR. SEELY (Lincoln): I think the question of sending a man to prison is much too serious a question to be discussed with any feeling on either side of the House. I should be glad if Her Majesty's Government could see their way to take out this clause, which they did not themselves think wise to insert, but which was inserted by the Grand Committee, a body which I cannot acknowledge thoroughly represented the views of the House of Commons. I have nowish to defend in any way the big trader, who has 500 or 600 shops—he is a man who is perfectly able to take care

of himself—but I think we ought to consider the question of the small trader, who often cannot obtain good legal advice, and is a somewhat ignorant person. He is, however, very valuable in the country. He does a great part of our local work, and we ought to protect him from any injustice. I consider we are running the risk of inflicting upon this class of the community, against whom there is a considerable amount of vague prejudice, which, I am certain, is far from being justified, a very serious and grave injury. I would, therefore, ask Her Majesty's Government to consider carefully whether they cannot strike out of the Act the words which they themselves did not wish to see inserted.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside): It seems to me that Her Majesty's Government have made out no case for the insertion of this provision. The right hon. Gentleman has stated that they had abundant evidence upstairs to justify the course which they are now pursuing. I have listened carefully to this Debate, and I have heard no evidence whatever to justify such a clause as is now proposed being carried into law. I have had some little experience in administering the Food and Drugs Act for the last eleven years, having served upon a committee in one of the most populous counties of the country, and I do not call to mind a single case where any individual has ever been found guilty of an offence on two or three occasions. There are, however, occasionally cases where a repeated offence occurs of a publican watering spirits. But to send a man to gaol for three months, as is proposed in this sub-section, is a penalty altogether inappropriate to the offence. If a case did occur in which an individual adulterated an article on three different occasions, I feel quite sure that public opinion would resent such adulteration, and that the offender would suffer in addition to the fine which might be imposed upon him. On these grounds I propose to vote against the clause.

***MR. MADDISON**: As I intend to vote for the Amendment of the hon. Member for South Mayo, I feel it is necessary for me to explain my position, especially after the remark of the right hon. Gentleman

who represents another division of Sheffield. He twitted my hon. friend with being undemocratic. Well, I hardly think that charge will have much weight in this House, for he does not often err in that direction. But if my right hon. friend has suddenly turned Democrat, I want to know whether he is prepared to extend this sort of legislation to the railway director, who, year after year, in spite of reports of Board of Trade inspectors, keeps the shunting-yard dark and kills men yearly. Is he prepared to commit to prison the slum landlord, who, generation after generation, has slowly but surely murdered people, and made a fortune in doing it? I approach an Amendment of this sort with all my natural prejudices in favour of the Bill. I have been engaged for some portion of my life in opposing—and, as I think, rightly—the unjust exactions of employers largely brought under this sub-section. But it is not a question of democracy at all; it is a question of justice. I agree with my hon. friend that this is a vindictive proposal, and I will oppose vindictive legislation whether it is directed against men struggling to be free in Ireland, or strikers, or any other class of the community. I certainly did think that there was a difference between the case quoted by the right hon. Gentleman and many of the offences which will be brought under this Bill. To expose meat, obviously bad, or fruit, is a very different thing from some of the offences specified in this Bill. I agree with my hon. friend the Member for Bethnal Green that this is not a question of the big trader at all. Does any hon. Member think that if a firm of reputation happened to be implicated in some offence under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, that Sir Thomas Lipton, for instance, for the third offence would be given three months' "hard"? There is a pretence of democracy in this Bill which is a sham from beginning to end. If it confined itself to such atrocious offences as that of killing innocent babies with skimmed milk I would support the right hon. Gentleman's proposal for imprisonment if it were three years instead

of three months. But the offences under this Bill are of a technical kind. I hope people will break the law. I hope, for instance, they will not confine their margarine to 10 per cent. of butter fat; I want the poor of this country to have the very best bargains. I think that a sub-section like this ought not to be passed, because the Bill is not a measure containing grave offences only, but offences which are purely technical offences, and which I do not regard, and a great many other Members do not regard, as offences at all, unless it has become an offence under a Conservative Government to make an article better. I shall vote for my hon. friend's Amendment because the Bill as it stands brings within the meshes of the law people who, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, are not criminals at all.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall): I hope the Government will stand by the clause, because I wish to see the same law for the rich as for the poor. If a rich man is fined £50 he can pay it, and it represents no punishment, but if a poor man is fined 5s. for neglecting to send his child to school he very frequently has to go to prison.

***MR. DUCKWORTH** (Lancashire, Middleton): I am sorry this Debate has gone away from the main purpose of the Bill. This is not a party measure at all, and I think it is a mistake to introduce into it party motives and feelings. The first object of this Bill is to protect the public against adulteration, the second is not to interfere in any way with legitimate business, and the third is not to harass or annoy the honest trader. I have no party feeling in this matter, and the Votes which I have given in Committee were not given for party motives but to carry out what I conceived to be the object of right hon. Gentlemen in charge of the Bill, which was if not entirely to do away with adulteration to make it next to impossible in the future for it to be perpetrated

in connection with margarine or butter. The hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool brought before us the wrong that would be done to a person, so far as his character is concerned, if he were brought before a magistrate and sent to prison. But what about the man who has no character? I am most strongly convinced that if you do not retain this clause in the Bill the worst possible criminals will escape, because fines will have no effect on them whatever, and they will not cease to carry on fraud. Let me give a case which is very well known in the trade. A firm has been hunted from two places where they were fined repeatedly. They remained in one locality and sold margarine for butter until the place got too hot for them, and then they moved to the second place and remained there until it got too hot also, and now they are in the third place, and since this Bill went into Committee they have been fined again. That is the kind of fraud we want to stop, and those are the kind of criminals we want to get hold of. What is the use of discussing this Bill, if you allow the worst criminals to escape? The right hon. Gentleman made up his mind, earnestly and sincerely, that he would stop this fraud, but it can only be done in this way. I know that I am going against some of my friends and against some associations in supporting the clause, and I am told if this Bill passed I might be brought before the magistrates in less than a fortnight. It would be cowardly on my part to allow such a fraud to go on without stating my view upon it, and speaking in defence of the Bill.

MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich): It appears to me that the penalty under this clause will only be inflicted on the small shopkeeper. I think it would be almost impossible to bring home a case of adulteration to the proprietor of a large number of shops, or to the directors of a limited liability company. Who are you going to imprison when you summon

a board of directors? Is it to be only the chairman, or would the entire board be imprisoned? This clause will only apply to the small shopkeeper who conducts his own business in one shop, and I think it is extremely hard that small retailers should be subject to imprisonment when their competitors, with enormous capital at their command, cannot possibly be

brought under this law. I think it is not fair to pass a measure by which the small shopkeeper will be placed in a worse position than his wealthy rival.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 188; Noes, 71. (Division List, No. 287.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell	Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Mner.)	MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)	Maclare, Sir John William
Asher, Alexander	Finch, George H.	M'Killop, James
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Malcolm, Ian
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Fisher, William Hayes	Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Bailey, James (Walworth)	FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose	Martin, Richard Biddulph
Baird, John George Alexander	FitzWygram, General Sir F.	Melville, Beresford Valentine
Balcarres, Lord	Garfit, William	Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manc'r)	Gedge, Sydney	Milner, Sir Frederick George
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)	Gibbons, J. Lloyd	Milward, Colonel Victor
Banbury, Frederick George	Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)	More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Giles, Charles Tyrrell	Morgan, Hn. F. (Monmouthsh.)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin	Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.	Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Goldsworthy, Major-General	Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Gordon, Hon. John Edward	Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Bill, Charles	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	Myers, William Henry
Blindell, Colonel Henry	Goschen, Rt Hn GJ (St. George's)	Nicholson, William Graham
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Goschen, George J. (Sussex)	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Brassey, Albert	Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)	Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Gretton, John	O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
Brookfield, A. Montagu	Gull, Sir Cameron	Parkes, Ebenezer
Bullard, Sir Harry	Gunter, Colonel	Paulton, James Mellor
Burns, John	Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.	Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Butcher, John George	Hanson, Sir Reginald	Pierpoint, Robert
Carlile, William Walter	Hardy, Laurence	Pirie, Duncan V.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)	Hare, Thomas Leigh	Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Henderson, Alexander	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)	Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)	Priestley, Sir W Overend (Edin.)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Hobhouse, Henry	Purvis, Robert
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)	Houston, R. P.	Rankin, Sir James
Chamberlain, J. Aust'n (Worc'r)	Howell, William Tudor	Rentoul, James Alexander
Channing, Francis Allston	Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil	Rickett, J. Compton
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry	Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.	Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matt. W.
Charrington, Spencer	Hulchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-	Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.	Jebb, Richard Claverhouse	Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick	Round, James
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Johnston, William (Belfast)	Royds, Clement Molyneux
Co'ston, C. E. H. Athole	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)	Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Cook, F. Lucas (Lambeth)	Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)	Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)	Kearley, Hudson E.	Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William	Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.	Keswick, William	Seton-Karr, Henry
Cranborne, Viscount	Kilbride, Denis	Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)	King, Sir Henry Seymour	Sidebottom, William (Derbys.)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Knowles, Lees	Simeon, Sir Barrington
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	Lambert, George	Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Curzon, Viscount	Laurie, Lieut. General	Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Dalkeith, Earl of	Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)	Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie	Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Dalziel, James Henry	Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-	Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)	Strauss, Arthur
Doughty, George	Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)	Strutt, Hon. Chas. Hedley
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Lucas-Shadwell, William	Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Dunkworth, James	Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred	Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.)
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Macafee, Daniel	Thornton, Percy M.
Evershed, Sydney	Macartney, W. G. Ellison	Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.	Macdonald, John Cumming	Valentia, Viscount

Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Ward, Hon. Robert A. (Crewe)
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut-Col. A. C. E.
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)

Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wylie, Alexander

Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allison, Robert Andrew
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bond, Edward
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burn, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Cawley, Frederick
 Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
 Colville, John
 Crilly, Daniel
 Crombie, John William
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dewar, Arthur
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-Hempill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sir U.
 Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumb'land)
 Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
 Leuty, Thomas Richmond
 Lough, Thomas
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)

Oldroyd, Mark
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Randell, David
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Strachey, Edward
 Tennant, Harold John
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, H. J. (Yorks, W. R.)
 Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Davitt and Mr. Maddison.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON : The Amendment which I now move is proposed to mitigate somewhat the clause by inserting the word "culpable" before "negligence."

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 16, page 6, line 39, after 'or' to insert 'culpable.'"—(Sir Charles Cameron.)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. J. H. JOHNSTONE: The Amendment that I propose is that where a person has been convicted of an offence under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act within twelve months of a previous conviction, the Court may order that a notice of the facts be affixed to the premises of the occupier. This provision is taken verbatim from the Food and Drugs Act, 1887. I can only add that this course has been recommended by the Select Committee on the Adulteration of Food and Drugs, which thought that the effect of the proposal would be useful.

Amendment proposed in page 6, line 42, after the word "months," to insert the words—

"(3) Where a person convicted of an offence under the Sale of Food and

Drugs Acts has been within twelve months previously convicted of another offence under those Acts the Court may, if it thinks fit and finds that he knowingly and wilfully committed both those offences, order that a notice of the facts be affixed in such form and manner and for such period, not exceeding twenty-one days, as the Court may order, to any premises occupied by that person, and that he do pay the costs of such affixing; and if any person obstructs the affixing of any such notice or removes, defaces, or conceals the notice while affixed during that period, he shall for each offence be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5."—(Mr. Heywood Johnstone.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY : I hope that the House will come to the conclusion which has already been arrived at by the Grand Committee, that it is not desirable that this additional penalty should be imposed. It is perfectly true that the Select Committee recommended that it would be desirable that the offender should be pilloried, but it is obvious that that cannot be done without special power. Our

courts of law, however, are open, and any interesting items of local news are well known. The Press advertise the fact of a conviction, and there is no necessity for entrusting the power to the courts to affix a notice of the conviction to the house or shop of the culprit—as, according to the hon. Member, is done in some foreign countries.

MR. J. H. JOHNSTONE: I made no reference to foreign countries. What I said was, that a similar protection already exists on our own Statute Book.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I have listened to the Solicitor-General with the greatest surprise, seeing that that hon. and learned Gentleman only two minutes ago insisted that an offender against this Act should be sent to prison. He says that it would be un-English to have the fact of a conviction against a dealer exhibited in his shop. This law has been in force for forty or fifty years in France, and the public have a right to demand that they should be warned by a notice in his shop that a fraudulent dealer has been convicted of fraudulent dealing. The only solid argument that the Solicitor-General used was that people have the opportunity of reading of the conviction in the newspapers. How many people read the newspapers? Not as many as I would desire. But, as a matter of fact, the people who read the newspapers from day to day are in a very small minority of the population, and even they scarcely ever read the convictions under an Act like this. But the Solicitor-General insists that a poor individual who rarely reads a newspaper except on a Sunday morning, when he has a couple of hours' leisure, is supposed to trace out and to know all the convictions under this Act. If the Amendment is accepted, all that he has got to do is to go to the shop and look at the window. If the dealer is a fraudulent dealer his customers are entitled to know that he is a fraudulent dealer, and he ought not to be protected from the consequences of his own fraud.

Question put and negatived.

Other Amendments made.

*MR. J. A. PEASE said he had been asked by the County Council of Durham to move the Amendment standing in his

name. The object was two-fold—first, that the period should be inserted in the Bill within which the prosecution should take place, and second, that proceedings should date from the date when the proceedings commenced and not from the date of the warrant. It may be said that there should on the one hand be sufficient time for tests to be made, in order that the prosecution may secure evidence for their case; but if on the other hand the period is too long it is almost impossible to secure a conviction. Many grocers, traders, and druggists buy articles and keep them for many months in stock, and it is important that the proceedings should date from the time of the warranty and not from the time of the receipt of the articles in stock. He moved:

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 11, after the words last inserted, to insert the words '(2) Any prosecution under section twenty-seven of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, may be instituted within twelve months from the time when the matter of such proceedings arose.'"—(Mr. Joseph A. Pease.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY hoped that the hon. Gentleman would not press his Amendment. The period of limitation under the present law was six months, and he could not see any sufficient reason for extending the period to twelve months.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. J. H. JOHNSTONE moved the Amendment standing in his name. The words which he proposed to omit were inserted in Grand Committee in the teeth of the opposition of the Government, and were carried by a somewhat narrow majority. It must be the opinion of all those who have had to do with the administration of the Adulteration Acts that the addition of these words would be most mischievous.

Amendment proposed :

"In page 7, line 20, to leave out the words from the beginning of Clause 19, to the words 'a warranty,' in line 23."—(Mr. J. H. Johnstone.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

*MR. LONG : The question raised by the Amendment of my hon. friend is one of the not least difficult questions dealt with during the progress of this measure. The effect of my hon. friend's proposal would be to bring back the Bill to the condition in which it was when it passed the Second Reading and was sent up to the Grand Committee. The suggestion is that an invoice should be put in the same position as a warranty. As the House knows, the retail dealer who produces a warranty can plead the warranty as a sufficient answer to a charge of adulteration, and he is entitled to an acquittal. Under the Margarine Act an invoice is put in the same position as a warranty. But the Margarine Act is not an Adulteration Act at all. But, none the less, it has been used as a justification of this change. When we introduced the Bill into the House we believed that we were going to give to the invoice the same advantages as that of the warranty, and that that would be a warning to the distributors who would be affected under this clause. In the Committee upstairs, however, an Amendment moved by Mr. Webster, who was then a Member of the House, was carried by a majority of four, and that altered in this respect the character of the Bill. During the course of the Debate upstairs I said I would not myself take action to alter the Bill down here, and that I would not myself move an Amendment but should leave it to the House of Commons to decide whether or no this change should be made in the Bill. Since that date I have had, of course, a great many communications from various people on this subject. In fact, no part of the Bill seems to have received so much attention from the outside as this clause. Certainly all the evidence which reaches me goes to show that this change introduced into the Bill in Grand Committee, by which an invoice is given the legal force of a warranty, will be attended with very great danger from the point of view of the successful detection and prosecution of the defendant. I have received communications from many local authorities, who all allege that the efficiency of the Act would be seriously imperilled in this respect. Therefore the demand of the wholesale dealer for protection of that kind seems to me to be fair. We have, from independent authorities, the same direction. I have communicated with the Home Office

on the subject, and the Home Office state that the opinions they have obtained show that the result of retaining these words will be to render the administration of the existing law more difficult. The opinion of several of the London magistrates was that it would be a great misfortune if they were retained. One of the strongest expressions of opinion comes from the Journal of the Medical Officers of Health, which states that it hopes that Clause 19 as it now stands will be either amended or struck out. There is a very great concensus of opinion all pointing in one direction. These invoices are issued, I am informed, frequently by young apprentices, but if the clause is passed as it now stands that work will have to be performed in a very different way. It is asserted on behalf of retailers that it is difficult and almost impossible to obtain a warranty at present, because the retailers are under certain financial obligations to the wholesale houses. We all would regret to add any additional burden to men who conduct their business under such difficult circumstances, but that is not an argument with which to appeal to the House of Commons. Under all the circumstances I believe the Amendment of my hon. friend is in the right direction, and that it will be wiser and safer for us to return to the position in which the Bill originally stood, rather than adopt a provision which, however it be amended, exposes us to very great risk. Under these circumstances, while leaving this matter entirely to the decision of the House, I shall myself without doubt or hesitation support my hon. friend's Amendment.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District) : I would not have taken part in this Debate at this hour were it not that from communications which I have received I am convinced there is a great body of opinion in favour of making some kind of invoice, if not every invoice, a warranty. The way in which the matter has been put by the right hon. Gentleman is, I admit, extremely plausible, but let me put the contrary arguments used in the Grand Committee. Under the Act of 1875 it was thought right to make a provision to deal with the case where a man honestly bought articles of food or drugs which were afterwards found to be injurious, and with which he obtained an

express warranty from the seller. I would ask the Solicitor-General how we are going to make a distinction between the case of an express warranty and the case of an invoice describing the goods. By the Sale of Goods Act, 1893, the description contained in the contract of sale was made for all purposes equivalent to an express warranty. Let me take a concrete case which may arise. Supposing I buy from a wholesale butter merchant one cask of best Danish butter; I write for the goods; he writes back stating that he has consigned to me one cask of best Danish butter, and he encloses the invoice. The invoice is a document which contains the words "one cask of Danish butter at so-and-so," with some discount allowance for cash, and below is the total amount I have to pay. If, when I receive the consignment, the butter is not the best Danish butter, or if it be not butter at all, I have, under the Act of 1893, a right to reject the cask, and if I break the cask and proceed to sell its contents, and if an analyst discovers it is not butter at all but margarine, I have a right of action against the person who consigned it. There is no suggestion that I have been negligent in entering into that civil contract. That is the way in which most of our contracts are made, for the simple reason that in business the general conclusion is that a man is honest. That has been the great principle of our law. If I have a right against the seller of this butter under that Act, why should I be placed in a worse position now? That is the question which is exercising the minds of retail dealers in this country. From communications I have received from associations of traders in Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire, this matter is rightly or wrongly regarded as vital to their business. I do not see anything in the argument against a proper invoice being recognised as an express warranty. Why should a grocer in Swansea, dealing for years with a particular firm, be put to the trouble of writing for an express warranty? The firm might say, "We give you very good terms, but if you impertinently ask us for a warranty, we must make our methods of business very different." These are new offences, and in dealing with these matters we should not go on the presumption that men are dishonest, but go on the time-honoured principle of business that men

are willing to speak the truth and to behave honestly. I respectfully protest against the action of the Government on this occasion. One qualification I must, however, make. I do not think an invoice standing alone is sufficient. Even if the principle were granted, the wording of the invoice would not be sufficient. With that qualification, and dealing with the matter on principle, and not from a party point of view, I would ask the House to reject the Amendment.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I also urge the same view as that expressed by my hon. and learned friend. The principle of invoices is not confined in the Sale of Goods Act or to the Margarine Act. The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act of 1893 constituted an invoice a warranty, because that was the only possible way to prevent the adulteration of feeding stuffs. The doctrine of warranty in that Act is so far extended that even any circular describing goods is held to have the effect of a warranty. That is the way the Board of Agriculture protected the purity of feeding stuffs and fertilisers, and it appears to me that every argument which led to the adoption of that procedure in that Act applies also to the present Bill, with of course any needed modifications. The right hon. Gentleman said that retailers have a right to ask for a warranty, but my hon. and learned friend has pointed out how very injurious and inconvenient that would be in many cases. These hucksters buy in very small quantities, and it would be very difficult to obtain a formal written warranty in every case. They should be entitled to buy with an implied warranty, and I am sure the provision in the Feeding Stuffs and Fertilisers Act would work equally well in this Act.

MR. BRYCE: It seems to me that this is mainly a question which is within the knowledge of those who are engaged in trade and of those who administer the law as magistrates, and who come into contact with the difficulties which arise. One thing is quite clear, and that is that the clause ought not to stand exactly in its present form. The word "invoice" is a very vague and might be a very misleading term. The question might also arise as to whether particular documents are or are not invoices, and it would be easy to evade the matter by sending a statement

of goods in some other form. I think it would be inadvisable to let the substance of the matter turn on the word "invoice." We should have some words conveying a description of quality, whether in the form of an invoice or in some other form. In that respect the clause clearly requires amendment. On the substance of the point—namely, whether or not a description stating the quality of the goods should carry an implied warranty with it we are abreast of an extremely difficult question. One would like to know what the experience of the working of the somewhat similar provision in the Margarine Act has been, and whether it facilitated the discovery of fraud. We are all agreed on putting down fraud, and the question is to discover it whether in the retailer or the wholesaler. I should have thought that one of the greatest difficulties in administering these Acts and the one which led to the introduction of the present Bill is the reluctance of local authorities to prosecute and magistrates to convict. That largely arises from the fact that they feel that the retailer is not really the guilty party, and that he must take whatever goods he gets, and therefore the local authorities and the magistrates administer the law less vigilantly and stringently. The question is whether we will not meet that difficulty if we get to the fountain-head and source of the evil—the wholesale dealer. I should have thought that, by the use of proper words, the wholesale dealer could be got at, and when once he is got at you effect more than by striking at a thousand retailers. I am rather inclined to think we had better leave the Bill as it stands.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I confess I feel that there is a great deal of force in the arguments of the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite; but since the matter was before the Grand Committee, we have had a great deal of evidence which I admit has produced a great effect on my mind. If the general opinion of those who are interested in the working of the Act, that its adoption would strike a very serious blow at the efficiency of the Act be correct, then I think we ought to pause before we make ourselves a party to any such enactment.

*MR. J. A. PEASE: My county council have gone very fully into this matter, and

Mr. Bryce.

they approve of the Amendment. They would prefer that an invoice should not be regarded as a warranty, but if the word "invoice" is to be used at all as a warranty it ought to be guarded, and if the House approves of the suggestion, I will move to insert, after the word "invoice" the following words, taken from the Act of 1875, "stating the nature, substance, and quality."

MR. RADCLIFFE COOKE (Hereford): I agree with my hon. and learned friend opposite that it would be very difficult for retailers dealing with wholesale houses to demand an express warranty. It is extremely probable that an invoice does not amount to a warranty, but there is sufficient authority to demand from the wholesale dealer a detailed invoice sufficiently descriptive of what he sells. To adopt the words of the hon. Member below me would be practically to exempt the wholesale dealer from the consequences of his fraudulent act.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): I hope the Government will accept the Amendment. The last man who sold an article to the consumer is the one who ought to be held responsible, and under no circumstances should that responsibility be held to be evaded. The decision of the Committee upstairs was more or less of a snatch vote, and I am very glad to see that the House of Commons is in a mood to reverse it.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I trust the Amendment will be carried. Again and again it has been said that the local authorities will not do their duty, but if this clause is carried as it stands it will make it more difficult for them to do their duty. What is the use of us spending our time in trying to make this Bill workable as an Act if we are unable to enforce it?

MR. A. C. HUMPHREYS - OWEN (Montgomery): If I am not very much mistaken, the invoices under the Feeding Stuffs Act are no protection whatever, and if any reliance is to be placed upon an invoice, it would be found that that reliance is entirely misplaced.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie): I think that the information given by the hon. Member who spoke last is scarcely accurate. I must say, from my experience, the Feeding Stuffs Act has worked extremely well. What the

Government ought to do is to follow up the giver of the invoice, and pursue to conviction the wholesale dealer.

*MR. SPICER (Monmouth Boroughs): I have no connection with the trade in food, but I do know something of the wholesale trade, and it seems to me that the Bill as it stands now is in favour of a retailer, and gives him proper protection, as against the wholesale dealer. On the other hand, the Amendment of the hon. Member for Sussex seems to me to take away the

responsibility from the wholesale dealer, and to put undue responsibility on the retailer. I venture to say there will be no difficulty if the wholesale dealer knows that the invoice carries a warranty. The wholesale dealer ought to bear the responsibility, and he is able to look after himself. Believing that the Amendment would be unfair to the retailer, I shall vote against it.

The House divided:—Ayes, 42; Noes, 119. (Division List, No. 288.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour, Rt Hn J. Blair (Clackm.)
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Billson, Alfred
Bond, Edward
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Bir.)
Colomb, Sir John C. Ready
Colville, John
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)

Davitt, Michael
Doughty, George
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (Manch'r)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbt. John
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-Hayne
Horniman, Frederick John
Hozier, Hon. J. Henry Cecil
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
McCrae, George
Manners, Lord Edw. Wm. J.
Oldroyd, Mark
Parkes, Ebenezer

Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thompson
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
Strachey, Edward
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-und.-L.)
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr.
Brynmor Jones and Mr. Spicer.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Bethell, Commander
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Wore')
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hn. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, C. E. H. Athole
Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dalziel, James Henry

Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Duckworth, James
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Evershed, Sydney
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St George's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hanson, Sir Reginald
Hardy, Laurence
Hobhouse, Henry
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Capt. G. W. Grice-Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Laurie, Lieut-General
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie

Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macaleese, Daniel
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maclare, Sir John William
McKillip, James
Malcolm, Ian
Melville, Beresford V.
Milner, Sir Frederick George
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh.)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Pierpoint, Robert
Purvis, Robert
Rentoul, James Alexander
Robertson, H. (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Charles Hilton
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)

Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.

Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander

Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Heywood Johnstone
and Mr. John Burns.

MR. BRYCE: I appeal to the Government to let us go home now. We have made very considerable progress with the discussion of the Bill, and the Government did not expect that they would get the Bill through to-night. When the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House got the additional time, he implied that he would not ask the House to sit very late.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I am quite aware that the Government could not in the present circumstances long resist the appeal that has just been made. I, however, appeal to hon. Members in their own interests to finish the Bill. There is nothing left of it of any importance whatever, and it might be finished in a short time.

MR. J. A. PEASE: I have an Amendment which is of considerable importance, and I believe the Government are prepared to accept it. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 30, after the word 'person,' to insert the words, 'Where the defendant in a prosecution under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts has been discharged under the provisions of Section 25 of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1873, or of Section 7 of the Margarine Act, 1887, as respectively amended by this Act, any proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts for giving the warranty

or invoice relied on by the defendant in such prosecution may be taken as well before a Court having jurisdiction in the place where the article of food or drug to which the warranty or invoice relates was purchased for analysis as before a Court having jurisdiction in the place where the warranty or invoice was given.'—(Mr. Joseph A. Pease.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: This is a most important Amendment. I rather think I sympathise with it, but it is not on the Paper.

***MR. LONG:** The hon. Member for Glasgow is technically right when he says this Amendment is not on the Paper. A similar Amendment is, however, on the Paper, and there is only an alteration in the phraseology.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: The phraseology is everything. Does the right hon. Gentleman expect us to discuss the wisdom of the phraseology? That is not the proper way to conduct business. I move that the Debate be now adjourned.

Motion made and Question put—"That the Debate be now adjourned."—Sir Charles Cameron.

The House divided : Ayes, 28 ; Noes, 113. (Division List No. 289.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Channing, Francis Allston
Colville, John
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Davitt, Michael
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duckworth, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John

Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Hayne
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans.)
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb.)
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Crae, George
Oldroyd, Mark
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)

Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Ure, Alexander
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Charles Cameron and
Mr. Caldwell.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird, John George Alexander

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man.)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Burhurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)

Bethell, Commander Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-

Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Burns, John
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir Jno. Chas. Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Evershed, Sydney
 Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Gedge, Sydney
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward

Goschen, Rt Hn G J (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool)
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Killop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edw. Win. J.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Milner, Sir Frederick George
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'tsh.)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)

Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Purvis, Robert
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ritchie, Rt Hon Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Sassoone, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Talbot, Rt Hn J G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
 Wodehouse, Rt Hon E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

SELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. RADCLIFFE COOKE: This is a long Amendment which I did not understand as the hon. Member read it. It may be a very good Amendment, but at this hour of the morning we ought not to be asked to discuss an Amendment to such an important clause.

Question put and agreed to.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: In moving this Amendment I will only say that there have been many cases in which grocers have been fined for the technical offence of selling, for instance, a tin of syrup adulterated with glucose. It is utterly impossible for a grocer to know anything about the adulteration, and in one case in Scotland, although the grocer was fined, the Sheriff expressed the opinion that he was not morally guilty. It is a very important question.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 7, line 34, after the word 'so,' to insert the words: '(3) Where any article of food is sold in tins or bottles in which it has been packed by the manufacturer, a label affixed by the manufacturer or wholesale dealer to such tins or bottles setting forth the nature

of their contents, or a circular or advertisement setting forth the nature of the contents of such tins or bottles, and distributed along with them by the manufacturer or wholesale dealer, shall, for the purposes of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, be held to constitute a warranty.'”—(Sir Charles Cameron.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I hope the House will not accept this Amendment. We have already decided by a large majority that the words constituting an invoice a warranty should be struck out. This proposal is even more sweeping, because it proposes that even a circular or an advertisement may constitute a warranty.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: Would the right hon. Gentleman accept the Amendment without the words "circular or advertisement"?

SIR R. B. FINLAY: Even without these words I hope the House will not accept the Amendment.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 30 ; Noes, 107. (Division List, No. 290.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
 Bethell, Commander
 Bond, Edward
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Colville, John
 Davitt, Michael
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)

Duckworth, James
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Jones, David B. (Swansea)
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macaleese, Daniel

M'Crae, George
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Charles Cameron and
 Mr. Provand

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Baird, J. George Alexander
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir H. M. (Bristol)
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscowen, Arthur Griffith-Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John Burns, John
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cecil, Lord H. (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Aust'n (Wore'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colombe, Sir John C. Ready
 Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col. E. T. D.
 Culbit, Hon. Henry
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-

Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
 Eversheds, Sydney
 Fellowes, Hon. Alwyn Edwd.
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Gedde, Sydney
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St Geo's.)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
 Hanson, Sir Reginald
 Hardy, Laurence
 Hobhouse, Henry
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William
 Keswick, William
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut-General
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 Maclare, Sir John William
 M'Killop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine

Milner, Sir Frederick George
 More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham Bute
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Purvis, Robert
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Ure, Alexander
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-L.)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

Resolved, That the Statement of the Estimated Income and Expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and Travers' Foundation for the year 1899-1900 be approved.—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at ten minutes before Two of the clock.

Further consideration, as amended, deferred till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 21st July 1899.

MARQUESS OF HEADFORT.

Petition of Geoffrey Thomas Marquess of Headfort, claiming a right to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH): My Lords, I beg to move that the Order of the 9th of March last—"That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday, the 27th day of June"—be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read a second time. This is a Provisional Order made by my Office under the Burgh Police Act, 1892, giving effect to an application on the part of the magistrates of Paisley for an extension of their borrowing powers. The Order was not deposited in the Scottish Office until the 20th of March, but I understand that no blame attaches to the magistrates of Paisley on that ground. As soon as they became aware of the necessity of the work for which this money is to be expended, they made the necessary application, and since that period no time has been lost. The matter was remitted at once to the Sheriff for a local inquiry, and his report was not received until far on in the month of April. We, in the Scottish Office, did not take many days to settle it, but considerable correspondence and adjustment of the Sinking Fund was necessary, and we were not able to sign the Order until June 15. The other House of Parliament suspended its Standing Orders on the understanding that the Bill would be unopposed. There was no opposition in that House, and I have every reason to think there will be no

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opposition here. I believe that the magistrates and Town Council of Paisley are doing what is best in this matter for those whose interests they have to guard, and I hope that, under the special circumstances, your Lordships will agree to the suspension of the Standing Orders to allow of the Bill being read a second time to-day.

Moved—

"That the Order of the 9th March last, 'that no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday, the 27th day of June next, be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a.' "

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): My Lords, after the explanation which has been given by the noble Lord, the Secretary for Scotland, I shall not oppose the motion.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Glenesk be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bill in the place of the Lord Kenyon; read, and agreed to.

LONDON IMPROVEMENTS BILL.

The Queen's Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

BELFAST CORPORATION BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

BOOTLE CORPORATION BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

MENSTONE WATER BILL.

Reported without Amendment.

1499	<i>Tithe Rent-Charge</i>	{LORDS}	(Rates) Bill.	1500
BRADFORD TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.			LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.	
Committee to meet on Friday next.			LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.	
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.			Read 3 ^a (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.	
Committee to meet on Thursday next.				
UXBRIDGE AND RICKMANSWORTH RAILWAY BILL.			ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 17) BILL.	
LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL.			House in Committee (according to Order) : Bill reported without Amendment : Standing Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read 3 ^a on Monday next.	
Committee to meet on Tuesday next.				
WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.				
Committee to meet on Monday next.				
LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.			TREATY SERIES, No. 15 (1899).	
WALKER AND WALLSEND UNION GAS (ELECTRIC LIGHTING) BILL.			Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the delimitation of their respective possessions to the west of the Niger, and of their respective possessions and spheres of influence to the east of that river ; signed at Paris, 14th June, 1898 ; together with a declaration completing the same ; signed at London, 21st March, 1899. (Ratifications exchanged at Paris, 13th June, 1899.)	
Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments ; further Amendments made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.				
GREAT NORTHERN AND STRAND RAILWAY BILL.			QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK.	
GREAT WESTERN AND GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.			Annual Report of the President, for the session 1898-99.	
SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES (NEW LINES) BILL.			IRISH LAND COMMISSION.	
Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.			Report of the Commissioners, for the period from 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1899.	
STOCKPORT CORPORATION WATER BILL.			GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.	
Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments ; further Amendments made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.			Report of the Principal Chemist of the Government Laboratory upon the work of the Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1899 : with Appendices.	
GOOLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.			Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.	
Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.				
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14) BILL.			LONDON CORPORATION.	
House to be in Committee on Monday next.			Annual account of the Chamberlain of London : delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.	
			TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.	
			Brought from the Commons ; Read 1 ^a ; to be printed ; and to be read 2 ^a on Monday next (<i>The Earl of Selborne</i>). (No. 177.)	

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (THE EARL OF SELBORNE): My Lords, in asking your Lordships to give a Second Reading to this Bill, perhaps you will allow me to make a few remarks by way of introduction. The object of the Bill is to assist persons of moderate means to acquire the ownership of the houses in which they live, and it does so by putting at their disposal a simple machinery which obviates the necessity for facing those legal terrors which must present such a formidable appearance to the eyes of a partially educated man, and by enabling them to raise the purchase-money from the local authorities at a cheaper rate than they can otherwise obtain it. The first clause of the Bill defines the class of occupier to whom assistance may be given, and it places a maximum upon the value of the house which may be bought under the operations of the Bill. The value of the house is not to exceed £400. The clause also fixes the proportion of the money which may be advanced to the total value of the property. The words of the clause are:—

"Provided that any advance shall not exceed (a) four-fifths of that which, in the option of the local authority, is the market value of the ownership; nor (b) £240; or, in the case of a fee simple or leasehold of not less than ninety-nine years unexpired at the date of the purchase, £300."

Clause 2 lays down the various precautionary regulations to secure, amongst other things, that the purchaser is a *bond fide* resident and not a speculator. Clause 3 lays down statutory conditions under which the purchasing owner is to hold the house until the advance with interest has been fully paid. It also makes provision for the action of the local authority which lends the money in case of default in complying with the Statutory conditions, or in case of bankruptcy. Clause 9—and this is one of the most important clauses in the Bill—defines the local authority under the Bill to be the council of any county or county borough. Provisions, however, are introduced, that if any urban or rural district council in England or

Wales, whose district contains a population of over 7,000 inhabitants, passes a resolution to the effect that it wishes to become the authority under this Bill, that urban or rural council shall become the authority for the purposes of the Bill, and the council of the county in which that district is situated ceases to have any further responsibility or authority within that district in respect of this Bill. The clause also places a limit upon any possible loss in working the Act—that is, any possible difference between the receipts and expenditure. Of course, I may mention, by way of parenthesis, the idea of the Bill is that there shall be no loss at all, and that it shall work on strictly business principles; but if in any local financial year the expenses payable by a council, and not reimbursed by the receipts under the Bill, exceed in a county a sum equal to one halfpenny, and in a county borough or urban or rural district a sum equal to one penny in the £ upon the rateable value, no further advances under the Bill shall be made until the expiration of five years, at any rate, after the end of the financial year, and not then unless the loss has fallen below the maximum stated. Clauses 11, 12, and 13 apply the Act to Scotland, and Clause 14 applies it to Ireland. In the rather slight sketch which I have given of the provisions of the Bill, I think your Lordships will see that this is a very simple and a very practical Bill, and I claim a favourable reception for it on two grounds. In the first place, because it embodies a principle which has been over and over again affirmed and approved of by your Lordships' House in connection with Irish Land Purchase Acts and the English Small Holdings Act; and, secondly, because your Lordships have twice specifically approved Bills for exactly the same purpose which have been introduced by the noble Marquess behind me (the Marquess of Londonderry), who has been the pioneer of the movement in this House, and to whose exertions is largely due the position the question has assumed in practical politics. I hope the noble Marquess will allow me to congratulate him on the part he has taken in bringing this question to the point at which it is ripe for legislation. In 1896 and 1897 the noble Marquess introduced Bills on this subject, and the Bill of 1896 was fortunate enough to secure the blessing of Lord Rosebery, while the Bill of 1897 secured the support of Lord Kimberley. The measure

has, therefore, I may say, received the support of both parties in your Lordships' House. I cannot too strongly impress upon the House the fact that the Bill contains no element of charity. There is not the slightest intention of benefitting the individual householder at the expense of the ratepayer. The public, in fact, can suffer no loss except through the negligence of the local authority. Although this is, as I have said, a simple and practical Bill, I claim for it that it also performs a really great service. I confess that I am one of those who have long thought that, although this country may rejoice in so many elements of stability to its social system, yet there is one great element to the stability of society which has been to a great extent lacking in this country. The diffusion of real property among the people is, perhaps, less advanced in this country than in any other country in Europe, and I believe it will greatly add to the permanence and stability of our institutions if there is a large addition to the body of our freeholders. I claim for the Bill that it affords the opportunity to men of moderate means of securing what is called a stake in the country. I claim for it that it gives those men an opportunity for an investment of any money they have saved through their thrifty habits, and that it is, therefore, a Bill for the encouragement of thrift; and I believe it will, to quote the words of the Leader of the Opposition in respect of Lord Londonderry's Bill of 1897, prove a real contribution to the problem of providing better dwellings for the people of the working classes. But, my Lords, although the Bill possesses the advantages which I have claimed for it, it has by no means escaped criticism. It has been said over and over again in the Press, and it has been repeated in another place, that the Bill will be inoperative. Well, my Lords, I would say that as a criticism that observation is premature, and as a prophecy it has no present value. The Bill has also been described as an electioneering measure. It is no more and no less an electioneering Bill than any Bill brought forward by either Party in the State as to which they have given pledges to the electors. Both Parties in the State give pledges to the electors, and neither of them can get rid of the illusion that there may possibly be gratitude for the fulfilment of pledges. I do not believe that either

Party in the State would introduce a Bill which it did not believe would be of real value to the country. Therefore that criticism is meaningless. A more serious criticism is that this Bill will not really benefit the working classes, that a working man's most valuable capital is mobility, and that to assist him to become the owner of a long lease is to tie him down in one place, with the possible result that he will have to take lower wages than he would otherwise get. That argument was harped on to a great extent in another place, and one hon. Member carried this argument so far, that he appeared to think that to turn a working man into a freeholder was only the first step towards reducing him once more to serfdom. I think that is a form of criticism which answers itself. Surely the best judge of his own interests in this matter is the working man. If he belongs to that kind of trade where mobility is necessary, it is not to be supposed that he will take advantage of this Bill; but, as your Lordships know perfectly well, the whole of the working class population is not a shifting population, and because a large portion of the labouring population may be mobile is no reason why this Bill should not be passed for the benefit of that portion of the population which is not mobile. Special provisions are made to facilitate transfer and in respect of temporary letting, and there is no compulsion in the Bill. No owner of house property or land is compelled to sell, no occupier is compelled to buy, and no local authority is compelled to lend. It has been asked why this Bill, which is one mainly for the assistance of dwellers in towns, has been extended to the country districts. The answer that has been made is that the habit is becoming more general for men working in the towns to live in the surrounding rural districts, and that the more the facilities of locomotion increase, and the more valuable the land becomes in the centre of towns, the more that tendency is likely to extend; but I would go much further than that, and justify the inclusion of country districts on the score of the necessities of the country districts themselves. When you are introducing legislation of this kind, why exclude from its benefits a man who might wish to take advantage of it because he lives in the country? I come from a part of the country where cottage

property is on the whole distinctly good, and yet, although I see no desire on the part of the working men to own and cultivate small farms, I see a great desire on their part, which is often reduced into practice, to own and reside in their own houses ; and when legislation of this kind is before Parliament, I can conceive of no practical argument for excluding from its benefits men residing in the country districts. Of course, the introduction of the country districts did necessitate a certain administrative difficulty. To work a Bill of this kind properly, two things, as has been frequently observed in another place, are required—firstly, thorough business capacity ; and, secondly, local knowledge. I do not think any of your Lordships, with the great experience that many of you have had on county councils, will deny that in the matter of business capacity there is no better authority for the purpose of carrying this Bill into effect than the county councils. County councils cannot, however, always have the necessary local knowledge, and for this reason an Amendment was accepted in another place permitting rural district councils as well as urban district councils to pass resolutions constituting themselves local authorities under this Bill. I admit that that arrangement is a compromise—nothing but a compromise was possible—but I believe it is the best arrangement that can be arrived at. I commend the Bill to your Lordships for Second Reading, as a Bill which the Government believe to be a good Bill, and one to which they attach real importance. Although this Bill comes before your Lordships with a modest aspect, I shall not be surprised if history records of it that it has had a marked effect on the social stability of the country.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2d."—(The Earl of Selborne.)

***THE MARQUESS OF RIPON :** My Lords, the noble Earl adopted a very modest tone in recommending this Bill to your Lordships. In one sentence, however, he seemed to say that it would make an important contribution to one of the greatest questions that can engage the public mind and the attention of Parliament at the present time—namely, the broad question of the housing of the working classes. The generally modest tone of the speech of the noble Earl was much more consonant with the character of the Bill than

the single remark to which I have referred. I am one of those who recognise to the fullest extent the great importance of the housing problem, but I venture to say that this Bill makes a very small contribution to this great and important question. I am not at all inclined to indulge in the remarks about election pledges, which seem to have given the noble Earl so much displeasure, but I am bound to say that I cannot look upon this Bill as any fulfilment of the election pledges, given by the Government and their supporters, to take in hand and deal with the great question of the housing of the working classes. This Bill, as the noble Lord said, is only intended to benefit people with moderate means. But the question of the housing of the working classes is connected, not with people with moderate means, but with people with very small means indeed. I do not rise to offer any opposition to the Second Reading of this Bill, but I am afraid I am not so sanguine of its results as the noble Earl seems to be. I have considerable doubts whether it is very likely to be very largely made use of. When you are advancing public money, whether the money of the ratepayers or the taxpayers, you are bound to surround the advance of that money with many precautions, and in my opinion the restrictions which are necessarily imposed will diminish the desire of persons to purchase property under this Bill. The noble Earl admits that the working classes are obliged to move about in search of work. That habit of mobility applies, I admit, rather to the poorer class than to those whom it is proposed to benefit by this Bill. Those who have had anything to do with elections know the great difficulty of tracing the removals, which are caused by working men having been obliged to move into other districts in search of employment. Even if they do not leave the town or district, they frequently have to leave the houses in which they dwell, and there will be less inclination on this account amongst them to purchase their own houses. Although you propose to allow a man who purchases the freehold of his house to sell that freehold, you place upon the sale—and necessarily place upon it—such restrictions as to make it less marketable than houses to which those restrictions do not apply. Although I shall be glad to see this Bill made as much use of as possible, I cannot say that I entertain any great anticipa-

pation that it will be found, when it is passed into law, to have much practical effect. Turning from these general considerations, I desire to say a few words in regard to the machinery by which the Bill is to be worked. That machinery is contained in Clause 9, and I feel considerable difficulty in regard to the alterations which were made in the other House of Parliament. Most of your Lordships have, I daresay, received the circular issued by the County Councils Association with regard to this clause. The arguments of the County Councils Association are, in my opinion, weighty arguments; but I do not altogether agree with the mode by which they are inclined to remedy the difficulties they foresee in this clause. My principal objection to the ninth clause is that you propose under it to create a new local area. One of the greatest evils we have to contend with is the complexity and multiplicity of our local areas, in which there is no unity of purpose whatever, and to introduce this new area of 7,000 inhabitants will make confusion worse confounded. The County Councils Association think that the difficulty would be met by striking the county councils out of the clause altogether. I do not agree with them; I think that would be a great mistake. I would suggest to the noble Earl, for his consideration, that the words creating the new area should be left out altogether, and that the transfer from the county council to the urban or rural district council should not take place without the consent of the county council. By that means you will at once avoid the creation of new districts, and you will maintain the county council in the position which I think it ought to occupy. The noble Earl recognised tonight the business capacity of the county councils, though he said they might be wanting in local knowledge. The county councils have more means of ascertaining local information than perhaps the noble Earl is aware of, and if they thought that there were any districts which could be safely entrusted with these powers, they would agree to their exercising them. I wish well to the measure, although it is an exceedingly small one, and one which I am afraid will have but little effect.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My noble friend, who has introduced the Second Reading of this Bill with such

The Marquess of Ripon.

ability, has been good enough to allude to me and my relations with a measure of a somewhat similar character which I had the honour of carrying through your Lordships' House on two occasions, and therefore I do not think I need offer any apology for rising to support the Second Reading of the Bill now before the House. The object of the measure is one in which I have taken considerable interest; but while my noble friend attributed the measure to a very great extent to me, I should be acting unfairly to a friend of mine in the North of England (Mr. Wrightson) did I not say that it was he, and not I, who was the pioneer of this Bill. This matter has been for some years before Parliament. So long ago as 1893 my friend Mr. Wrightson, then Member for Stockton, carried through the House of Commons a measure of the kind now proposed. I congratulate Mr. Wrightson, myself, and all of us who for some years past have endeavoured to bring the subject before Parliament, on the fact that at last a measure has been brought forward by the Government as a Government Bill. Naturally, it has great advantages under these circumstances in your Lordships' House. It has the advantage of being introduced in more eloquent and far better language than I could have employed, and as a Government Bill it has been able to deal in a more generous manner with regard to certain provisions than I, as a private Member, could have asked your Lordships to accept. I have compared this Bill with the one I had the honour of carrying through your Lordships' House, and I notice that the provisions are of a far more generous character than ever I contemplated in my Bill. In the Bill which I introduced I naturally, as a private Member, was extremely anxious to safeguard every interest which it might be supposed I was attacking; and the chief interests to be safeguarded in a matter of this kind are the interests of the rate-payers whose money it is proposed to ask the local authorities to advance. I was naturally very humble in my demands, and, in the interests of the rate-payers, I suggested that only one-eighth of the full rateable value of the district should be advanced and placed for that purpose at the disposal of the local authorities. I am very glad to see from the Bill which has been introduced by my noble friend that that safeguard has been

abolished. I also ventured to suggest that the sum of only £150 should be the maximum which the local authorities should have the power to advance. I am still more glad to see, in this Bill, that the local authorities will have power to advance as much as £240 in certain circumstances, £300 under certain other conditions, and even up to £400. I hail these provisions with feelings of great gratification, for they prove to me, beyond all doubt, that since this measure has been before the country and before Parliament Her Majesty's Government have recognised that it will be for the benefit of the working classes, and that, moreover, the apprehensions which they held—and, I think, very naturally held—with regard to the interests of the ratepayers were, I will not say altogether groundless, but apprehensions which could be got over, and I think the Government have shown that they have been got over. This Bill is one which, in the working class districts, will tend to promote thrift, industry, and independence of character, all of which were expressed by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in introducing the measure, as characteristics which should be encouraged in the British working classes. I also look upon the measure as an advantage from another point of view. I know well the difficulty which exists with regard to old age pensions, but I cannot but think that if this measure is carried it will to a certain extent take the place of old age pensions. I mean by that, that if a thrifty, industrious man, a young man, with regularity pays the interest that he has to pay on his house, at the end of thirty years the house becomes his own, and, consequently, in his old age, he has a house free, and the rent which he would otherwise either have to pay to a landlord or to a local authority will remain in his own pocket. Therefore I hail this measure as a means of contributing to the comfort and the welfare of the oldest members of the working-class community, if they take advantage of the measure in their early days, and carry out the conditions—the fair conditions—which are laid down in the Bill. I am very glad to see, however, that Her Majesty's Government have taken the line of safeguarding the interests of the ratepayers, while at the same time they have not taken away the advantages

which I held out in my Bill. I think they are justified in vesting the ownership in the local authority. But while they do that they give the working classes the opportunity of buying the houses by instalments—exactly as I proposed in my Bill. I must revert to the time when I had the honour of carrying my Bill through your Lordships' House, and to the speech which was delivered on that occasion by the noble Earl opposite, the Leader of the Opposition (the Earl of Kimberley), who approved of the Bill introduced, and offered some criticisms of a fair and just character upon it. I may say that I value the criticism and the approval of the noble Earl more than anything else, for I feel certain that no one will contradict me when I say that in the details of local government no noble Lord possesses superior, if equal, knowledge on this matter; and when the noble Earl supported my Bill I felt that I must have introduced a very useful measure. The following year the noble Lord who was then leading the Opposition in this House (the Earl of Rosebery) expressed approval of the Bill, and offered some criticisms upon it. With perfect justice, the noble Earl put his finger on what I might say seemed at first sight to be a blot upon my measure—namely, that it was possible for the population to migrate, and thereby become owners of their houses as long as they were paying rent for them. The noble Earl said that if trade migrated it might leave the local authorities saddled with valueless securities. At first sight that appeared to be a very fair criticism, and the noble Earl went on, in terms of the greatest delicacy, to allude to a colliery which had belonged to me, the lease of which I had not renewed, and consequently, Lord Rosebery said, as it was no longer to be worked, the cottages on that property would not be used in the future. Although that colliery to which the noble Earl alluded is no longer working, all the cottages are occupied by working men who are employed on the neighbouring colliery of Sir James Joicey, who bought it from Lord Durham. I mention that to show that, although one colliery ceased working, the cottages on that property are still required, and are at present in demand. While I allow that Lord Rosebery's criticisms were just, I do not agree with regard to the migration of the population. I would remind

the House that this is a permissive Bill, and that it is the duty of the local authority to satisfy themselves, before they advance the money of the ratepayers, that the industry in which the persons who intend to buy houses are engaged is of a permanent character. They will guard the interests of the ratepayers, and refuse to grant advances unless the industry is of a permanent character, and the men are likely to be permanently employed. I know the difficulties which must surround a measure of this kind. I know that a certain number of my own friends, who, like myself, hold Conservative views, regard this as a Radical measure. If it were compulsory I would not support it. But it is purely permissive, alike for the seller, the buyer, and the local authority—permissive for all concerned; and if it is taken advantage of by the working classes, I venture to think it will prove of inestimable benefit to them. It will encourage them to thrift, and encourage them to be independent, and give them happy homes in their old age. Your Lordships probably consider that these are matters of detail which could best be considered in Committee, but I have ventured to bring them forward on the Second Reading, owing to the fact that I am afraid engagements in the Sister Isle will prevent me from being present in the House next week, when the subsequent stages are taken. I am sure that the working classes will feel grateful to the Government for this Bill.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: My Lords, I wish to call the attention of the House to one point of objection in the Bill—the point to which my noble friend opposite has alluded—namely, the body which is to become the local authority for the purposes of the Act under Clause 9. I cannot help agreeing with the noble Marquess (the Marquess of Ripon) that it is inconvenient to create entirely new local authorities for areas of 7,000 inhabitants, and I also agree with him that it is undesirable that county councils should be cut out of the Bill altogether. I would suggest to my noble friend in charge of the Bill, whether it would not be a fair and reasonable compromise that any district council, urban or rural, should be the local authority, provided the county council give their sanction. That would

The Marquess of Londonderry.

obviate the creation of a new class of subordinate authorities, and would give the county councils the power which they ought to possess, and which, I think, it is desirable they should possess. I venture to suggest to my noble friend that this is a point well worthy of his consideration.

***LORD NORTON:** My Lords, I quite agree with the noble Lords who have spoken as to the attractive manner in which the noble Earl (the Earl of Selborne) has introduced this Bill, and I agree that the Bill is an attractive one in itself. Nothing can be more conservative than turning tenants into owners. I have done all I possibly could to encourage tenants to become owners of the houses they occupy, but I question the propriety of making loans of public money for the purpose. There is no doubt that facilities for self-insurance are in every way most desirable, and increase the vigour of the nation, but extraneous aid for private interests has rather a contrary effect on the spirit of the country. It seems to me that benevolent legislation of this character trenches on the sphere of private charity. Though the noble Earl who introduced the Bill repudiated that remark with regard to this Bill, yet he must allow that the advance of public money for the purpose of enabling tenants to become owners of their houses assumes that character. Wherever I have assisted tenants to become the owners of their houses I have considered it more or less an act of charity—a valuable help, but, still, not an act calculated to promote self-support. This Bill, we know, emanates from the Secretary for the Colonies, and, as the noble Marquess rightly said, it has a sort of kindred to the Old Age Pension proposal; both are in the nature of public aids to what should be self-provision. The first danger of benevolent legislation of this kind arises from the opening which it gives to an attack of fraudulent speculators, and the difficulties in the way of proper security are great. The first clause of the Bill endeavours to limit the amount of these public loans. I can recollect precisely the same attempt at restriction being made in carrying out the Friendly Societies Act some fifty years ago, in which I had a share myself. There the same limit of £200 in the case of advances was proposed; but what was

the immediate result? There was a rush of men, who, under different names, contrived to get at least half-a-dozen or a dozen of these advances to themselves. I only mention that to show how this kind of legislation is open to the attacks of a host of fraudulent speculators, who are always looking out for opportunities of this sort. The conditions of these loans, in order to prevent fraud, are necessarily most intricate, and in some points most questionable. How, for instance, are future changes of residence to be always detected? But is fixed residence always desirable? I quite admit that there are a considerable number of working classes who are, by the nature of their occupation, fixed in localities; but I think you must allow that for the great mass of working men it is not desirable that they should be assisted out of public funds to provide a permanent residence in any one spot. These are objections which could, I think, be got over by slight alterations. I confess that the general principle and object of the Bill is one which, in my opinion, is most desirable; but my main objection to the Bill—one which must be removed before I can possibly give my support to it—is the provision that where default is made in complying with the statutory condition as to residence, and where default is made in complying with any of the other statutory conditions, the property shall vest in the local authority. I think that is a very great objection. It will lead to the local authorities becoming landowners, and will give borough councils absolute omnipotence politically and electorally. The noble Viscount below me (Viscount Cross), in the year 1875, passed a very useful Act which enabled local authorities to purchase insanitary buildings and put them in order; but there is a section in that Act to compel those authorities, immediately after they have done so, to sell the residue of property not required for the purpose. The great city over which the Secretary for the Colonies is the presiding genius obtained Lord Cross's Act in the form of a local Act, applying to Birmingham only, and in that Act this most material section of Lord Cross's Act, that which prevented the borough council from retaining unappropriated property, was omitted. In Birmingham the council have a great hatred of landowners, but they have a great ambition to become landowners themselves. I would

urge that this Bill should be amended so that in the event of property coming into the hands of the local authority, in default of any of the many conditions of purchase, then the local authority should be compelled at once to resell, following the precedent of Lord Cross's Act of 1875; and I also think the original proprietors ought to have the first option of re-purchase. I am told by those who support this Bill that such a provision would add too much to its intricacy. It is said that the original owners who consented to sell their property to their tenants have no right of re-entry. No one supposes that they have a right of re-entry, but it is in the interests of the people that they should be allowed to repurchase. A proprietor of an urban district may have schemes for the general improvement of the district, and the local authority, coming in as a proprietor of parts, would prevent the owner from carrying a general scheme out, and thereby prove prejudicial to the whole locality. I refer to schemes for public parks, district drainage, and the like, which, if the local authority owned houses and land here and there, might be made impossible. It is, therefore, in the interests of the people themselves that the local authorities, if they have to resell, should give priority of option to the original purchaser. I cannot conceive that there will, as has been stated, be any difficulty in ascertaining the price for re-purchase, as there are modes by which value is easily ascertainable. Those who oppose this proposal are men who prefer municipal landlords to individual landlords, and I maintain that the system which they advocate is not a desirable one either for the country or for the people themselves. While I do not oppose the principle of this Bill, I have called attention to what I consider are blots upon it. I will test your Lordships' opinion on the points I have raised in Committee, and I shall move Amendments making it imperative on the local authorities to resell properties which come into their hands through default in the conditions of purchase, and also to give the original proprietor priority of option in regard to purchase.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I am not alarmed by the criticisms of my noble friend, Lord Norton. He

has, I think, seen a great many very terrible things in this harmless Bill, which I am sure will not frighten any of your Lordships. With regard to his objection to advancing public money for such purposes, I would remind the noble Lord that we have been in the habit of advancing public money for various purposes of this kind. A great deal has been advanced to landowners for the purpose of improving their property, and the principle has been admitted in so many cases, that the only question which can now arise is, whether this particular case is one in which money ought to be so advanced. I have no hesitation in saying that I agree with the noble Marquess (the Marquess of Ripon) that this is a modest Bill. It is, however, sound in principle. **My fear** in regard to it is the same as I expressed when I spoke on Lord Londonderry's Bill two years ago—namely, that it will only have a small operation. My reason for thinking so is that the working classes are becoming more and more migratory every day. It is no use trying to put back the clock. I do not deny that there are considerable dangers, and often evils, connected with this universal migration, but it is produced by the conditions of the country in which we live. The greater facilities for moving must naturally and inevitably cause the artisan population, who have business instincts like the rest of mankind, to move from place to place wherever they can find better wages. Migratory habits, as I have said, have their evils, and anything which will induce artisans and labourers to remain longer in one place will tend to the benefit of the community. I have myself seen great changes in the rural district with which I am best acquainted. I can remember the time when the inhabitants of our villages rarely moved from one district to another, but now every year I see a greater disposition on their part to migrate. It is not caused by discontent—it would be a mistake to suppose that it is—but mainly by the fact that they can obtain better wages and better employment elsewhere. Whatever you may do, the best men will always go where there are the best wages, and where they are most wanted. It will be a decided advantage if the facilities given under this Bill will lead to a number of men becoming more stationary, and it will give greater stability to the

population. It is a loss to the community that people should continually move from place to place, and that the close and cordial feeling which used to exist between neighbours who had known each other for a long time should be in this way diminished. A friend of mine connected with South Wales said it was curious to see how whole villages were becoming depopulated, and the people drawn away to the mining districts. This shows the difficulties which may arise; because you might, of course, have furnished a village with houses at the expense of the local authority, and the whole of the people might depart owing to the springing up of a perfectly new industry in another part. It is vain to shut our eyes to the fact that this may arise. With regard to the ninth clause, I entirely agree with the observations of the noble Marquess behind me (the Marquess of Ripon) and the noble Earl, the Chairman of Committees. When the very useful measure was brought in by a former Conservative Government, which established county councils, it was thought that the great advantage of that Bill would be the swallowing up of local areas. Nothing could be more prejudicial than that small areas should possess separate administrative powers. As to the observation which has been made that county councils have not that local knowledge which the smaller bodies possess, I would point out that county councils are now well accustomed to dealing with subjects in particular areas in their county, and they have, as far as I know, a constant habit of deputing members of their body—men who give their time and knowledge to the matter—to go into different parts of the county when local questions arise, and examine thoroughly into those questions. I do not think you could have a system which would work better than that. Moreover, county councils have the great advantage, being composed of men coming from all parts of the county, of not being subservient to those petty interests which often actuate those responsible for local government in small areas. They look at the whole matter from a wider point of view, and they also ensure a certain amount of unity of action. It would be most unfortunate if at one end of the county a thing is done on one principle, and at another end of the county on a different principle altogether. For

The Earl of Kimberley.

that reason I strongly deprecate the creation of new areas, and I think the suggestion which has been made is an extremely good one, because county councils would never be so jealous of particular areas, or so insensible to the advantages of the county, as not to be ready to delegate the powers under this Bill to a smaller authority. Although the Bill will not, in my opinion, have a wide-spreading result, it is sound in principle, and I therefore welcome it.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY : My Lords, although this is a well-intentioned Bill, I doubt very much whether its good intentions will not be strangled by its regulations. I have read the Bill from the point of view of an intending purchaser, and I would rather have to deal with any of the building societies than borrow money from a local authority under this measure. For instance, a man who purchases his house cannot leave it for more than four months, and to let it for four months he has to obtain the sanction of the local authority. Again, should he fail in any of his payments, there is a chance of his being turned out; and although local authorities under this Bill are to be helped from the rates to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ in the £ in some districts, and 1d. in the £ in others, they are not certain to be able to make both ends meet, and a man who invests may lose his investment should he fail at any time in his payments, as the Bill says that after re-sale of the house he shall receive the balance, if any. The noble Earl who introduced this Bill did not make a very encouraging statement as to its origin. He said it embodied a principle which had been approved in connection with the Irish Land Purchase Acts. This is not a recommendation. He further stated that the noble Marquess, the Marquess of Londonderry, who was at one time chairman of the London County Council, recommended it. Whilst I am always ready to follow the noble Marquess into the lobby on Irish questions, I decline to follow him upon any matter connected with the Metropolis, as I find that noble Lords who sit on the London County Council generally come back to this House more or less deteriorated.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY : May I point out to the noble Lord that I

have never been chairman of the London County Council ? I have, however, been chairman of the London School Board.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY : I beg the noble Lord's pardon. The noble Earl who introduced this Bill said that it had not escaped criticism. I have been desirous of reading what has been said upon the Bill, but *Hansard* has been so behindhand this session that I cannot find in your Lordship's library any number of *Hansard* containing the debates upon this Bill later than the First Reading. I contend that the Bill is not for the benefit of the working classes, as it is not to the interests of a working man that he should be tied to one house, but that the Bill will affect a class of persons who do not require assistance out of the rates. The noble Earl did not state whether this is a Government Bill or not. I assume that it is not, or it would have been moved by the noble Lord who usually speaks in this House for the Local Government Board, or by a noble lord connected with a department which has to deal with this country, and not by the Under Secretary for the Colonies. This Bill is so complicated, and its study must have occupied so much of the time of the Under-Secretary that it quite explains why he has been unable to read the "Commentary on St. Matthew," written by his friend, the Solicitor-General of Ceylon.

*LORD MONTEAGLE : My Lords, I wish to call attention to the application of this Bill to Ireland, in which country the measure has attracted considerable interest. We fear that some disappointment may be caused unless certain ambiguities in the clause applying the Bill to Ireland are cleared up. I am a cordial supporter of the Bill so far as it goes ; my only complaint is that it does not go far enough in the case of Ireland. Nominally, it applies to Ireland, but it entirely fails to reach a large and special class who occupy cottages built by the local authorities, with small plots of land attached ; and the question is whether the local authority should be empowered to sell these houses to the occupiers as is proposed in the case of dwellers in towns. As the Bill was originally introduced in the House of Commons it was, as the noble Earl who moved the

Second Reading pointed out, intended for dwellers in towns, but was extended during its passage through the House of Commons to the rural districts. I would therefore venture to ask the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chancellor of Ireland to consider the point I have raised. It is obvious that the case is very different from that where the local authority assists the occupier to purchase his house from a private owner, and different machinery will be required to make the Bill applicable to the class I refer to. I have called attention to this on the Second Reading because the point seems to be such a special and peculiar one that I do not think it can be dealt with by an Amendment in Committee. The Bill has attracted considerable attention among the agricultural labourers in Ireland who will be affected by it, and I appeal to the Government to hold out some hope to them that the matter will be dealt with.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE): My Lords, the point mentioned by my noble friend is one of considerable interest and importance, and will have to be considered in the Committee stage of the Bill. The Bill, as it stands, deals only with the purchase of houses, but in Ireland, under the Cottages for Labourers Acts, the local authorities have been enabled to build houses for labourers with small holdings of, in one case, half an acre, and in other cases of one acre attached. There are thus in Ireland a considerable number of labourers who are tenants in respect of their cottages of the local authorities, and who hold, in addition, small holdings of an acre and half an acre in extent. It is obvious that it will require much consideration to adapt the mechanism of the Bill to that class of occupiers, both in respect to the holding of land, and to the purchase of the cottages from the local authority. One of the ways in which the difficulty might be met would be if the tenants of these cottage holdings were willing themselves to come forward with the money—which I think would be very rarely the case—for the purchase of the land, receiving only an advance for the purchase of their cottages. I feel bound to say that I see very considerable difficulty in bringing this class of occupiers within the purview of the Bill, but the matter is receiving the attention of the Government of Ireland, and I have no

Lord Monteagle.

doubt will be further considered in Committee.

EARL SPENCER: I regard the question raised by my noble friend (Lord Monteagle) as a very important one, and I am not quite aware how the case now stands with regard to Ireland. I was very familiar with the original Act—I believe I was partly responsible for it—but several Acts have been passed since then. If the Bill is to apply to rural districts as well as to towns, I maintain that you can hardly avoid dealing with the plots of land attached to cottages, the owners of which are quite as much attached to their gardens or small holdings as to their houses. I appreciate the difficulties involved, and I cannot at the present moment say how they can be dealt with. I hope, however, they will receive the consideration of the Government in Committee.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS BILL

THIRD READING.

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER: I think I need not trouble your Lordships with any observations in moving the Third Reading of this Bill. The Amendments which were inserted in the Standing Committee were of a verbal character, and did not affect the principle of the Bill.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^a."—(*The Duke of Westminster.*)

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I would ask your Lordships' indulgence while I offer a few remarks upon this Bill, which, trifling as it may appear, seriously affects the character of our legislation, and the way in which it has been dealt with by your Lordships affects more or less the character of your Lordships' House. We have all seen, in our experience, that very often important questions are centred in matters which in themselves are trifling

and unimportant, and a very important principle is centred in this so-called trifling Bill, the object of which is to find seats for shop girls. When I spoke upon the Bill the other day I ventured to describe it as a trifling and humanitarian, rather than a practical, measure, and I would apply this test to this kind of legislation. What would all the great Parliamentarians of the past, from Pitt down to Palmerston, have said if they had been told by any prophet of their time that the day would come when Parliament would take up such a question as this? I am sure they would have laughed in the face of any such prophet, and would have told him that he was libelling that Parliament of which they felt so proud. I contend that Parliament was not designed for legislation of this kind. In support of my statement that the way in which your Lordships have dealt with the Bill affects the character of this House, let me simply relate the story of the Bill. It was brought in affecting Scotland alone, having passed through the other House in the early hours of the morning without debate and without discussion. On its arrival in this House, Lord Shand made an excellent speech against it, and moved its rejection. The noble Marquess, the Prime Minister, also denounced the Bill, and said that if your Lordships did not take care this legislation would reach your own households. Your Lordships cast out the Bill, without a single Member, except the mover, raising a word in support of its principle. What happened next? The same Bill was again introduced into the other House by Sir John Lubbock, the only difference being that its principle was extended to England and Wales and not to Scotland. The House of Commons also passed that Bill almost without a word, and sent it direct to your Lordships' House. Will the noble Viscount (Viscount Cross), who seems in favour of this legislation by a little observation and cheer which he just let drop, deny that a measure thus cast out by your Lordships and sent back again directly from the Commons, in the manner in which this Bill was returned, is a slap in the face? It is a slap in the face which I have never seen given to this House in my time. And who is it that inflicts this slap in the face upon your Lordships? My noble friend, the Duke of Westminster. Why the noble Duke has taken

this question up I do not know. He was one of my oldest and dearest friends, and nearly thirty years ago we lived together in a cave—we were Adullamites. My noble friend was at that time a sensible man; there was nothing hysterical or humanitarian about him, and he did not bring in Bills of this kind. Why this change? It may be that no w m noble friend no longer lives in a cave, but resides in a great house and is a ground landlord, he thinks that he has certain seigniorial duties. This Bill, which your Lordships had rejected six weeks ago with ignominy, was passed on the 11th of July by a majority of three to one. I contend that legislation of this kind is a degradation of Parliament, and it is a matter of great regret that it should have been treated in the way it has been by your Lordships. It will prove more hurtful than useful. What has been the result of the Workmen's Compensation Bill? Why, at the Barrow Works—I see the noble Duke present—no man is admitted over fifty years of age.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE): That is not a fact.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Then my noble friend should take care that no official paper is issued stating that no man is received over fifty. Has not the noble Duke seen it?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Yes; I have seen it. Have you got the paper?

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I have read it.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Have you got the paper?

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: No; not in my pocket.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: That is not the effect of the bill.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: What is the effect? The belief is that perhaps it was found unpopular and has been altered. On the Second Reading, the Right Rev. Prelate the Bishop of Winchester said it was all moonshine to say that this Bill would have the effect of diminishing wages and substituting men for women as

shop assistants ; but my noble friend the Prime Minister brought excellent facts and *data* before your Lordships, from men who know what they are talking about, proving that this will be the result. The Bill is full of inconsistency. It provides that in every shop there shall be one seat to every three persons employed. Why is this to be done ? Because it is said that it is hurtful to the health of shop assistants that they should be compelled to stand. The Bill will be worthless, as it does not provide that the assistants shall use the seats. That seems to me a great inconsistency in the Bill, and, as regards the health of the shop assistants, let me say that my house looks out on the Green Park, and I constantly see these girls, in the pouring rain, going to their work. Will anyone tell me that remaining in shops in wet clothes and wet shoes and stockings is not more hurtful to them than being compelled to stand ? For everyone who is injured for want of a seat, there are dozens who die through wearing wet clothes and stockings. At the rate we are going on we shall have Viscount Cross, the Duke of Westminster, and the Bishops, with the grandmotherly help of Mr. Chamberlain in another place, bringing in a Shop Girls' Dry Shoes and Stockings Bill. And if not, why not ? It is to the principle of this Bill that I object. This great mother of Parliaments was never designed to touch peddling legislation such as this, which should be left to the instincts of humanity and to the progress of public opinion. The action of your Lordships in rejecting the Bill with ignominy one day, and sanctioning it by a majority of three to one six weeks later, will not tend to raise your Lordships' House in the estimation of the public. It is of no use dividing upon this Bill, but as a matter of principle and for my own conscience I move that the Bill be read this day three months.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out 'now,' and add at the end of the motion 'this day three months.'”—The Lord Wemyss (*E. Wemyss.*)

On question whether the word "now" shall stand part of the motion, resolved in the affirmative ; Bill read 3^a accordingly, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

The Earl of Wemyss.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE : My Lords, it has been found, with reference to the University of London Act passed last year, that, although it was framed so as to recognise the teachers of Holloway College, it has had the effect of preventing that college from being so recognised. The Commissioners have reported that should their powers be enlarged by Parliament in this respect they will have no hesitation in recognising this college. The object of the Bill is to apply Section 8 of the University of London Act, 1898, to Holloway College, in like manner as it applies to the South-Eastern College at Wye.

Moved : "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Lord President of the Council.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

QUESTIONS.

REORGANISATION OF THE EDUCATION OFFICE.

THE EARL OF MORLEY : I rise to ask the Lord President of the Council if, in the reorganisation of the Education Office, it is intended to appoint a Principal Assistant Secretary for Secondary Education of equal official status with the Principal Assistant Secretaries responsible for primary and for technical education respectively. Since I first put the question on the Paper it has been answered in the House of Commons in a way which is altogether satisfactory, and my only excuse for again putting it down is to give my noble friend the Lord President of the Council the opportunity, if he thinks fit, of making a statement on the subject, and somewhat amplifying the information which we have already received. I will explain to your Lordships why I put this question on the Paper. Many of the secondary schools

of the country, including the large public schools, expressed their willingness to fall into line with a general education scheme, and they did so in the belief that in the Education Office, as reorganised, there would be a Department devoted exclusively to what I may call, for want of a better name, secondary education proper. When it appeared in the newspapers that in the new organisation of the office there would be two principal departments, one for secondary and one for primary education, and that the secondary department would be subdivided into secondary proper and technical education, it seemed to the authorities of those schools that in their communications with the Education Department, as reorganised, they would be relegated to an official twice removed from the head of the Department, instead of one immediately subordinate to him. I am informed that that is not going to be the case now, and that the division of the office—we were informed so in the House of Commons—is to be tripartite, namely, primary, secondary proper, and technical education. The fear of the authorities of these large schools and of the Universities to some extent was, that if a bipartite division had remained, secondary education, or the literary part of secondary education, might have been considerably prejudiced, and that would have been especially the case if the head of the united Secondary Education Department had been one qualified rather by his knowledge of technical than literary subjects. I do not think it is necessary for me to labour this point, but I venture to make this remark, that if a double arrangement had been maintained, or if it is ever hereafter reverted to, it seems to me, without unduly depreciating the very great importance of technical education in this country, it is of paramount importance to the best educational interests of the country that the head of the Secondary Department should be one who is qualified by his general knowledge of secondary education proper, and that technical education should be, at any rate, only a branch of that large division. I understand that the division of the new office will be tripartite, as the Schools and Universities desire. I should like to ask my noble friend the Lord President of the Council if he can give the House some information with regard to the Departmental Committee which is to supervise the reorganisation of the Edu-

cation Office, and to state whether, on the Committee, secondary education proper will be represented as well as the Treasury, the Education Office, and the Science and Art Department.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, perhaps it would be more convenient to the noble Duke if I were to put one or two questions to him before he answers the noble Earl, so that he may not have the trouble of making two speeches on the same subject. I do not altogether take the same view as that taken by the noble Earl who has just sat down. When the Board of Education Bill was passing through this House I ventured to say that I hoped the plan advocated by some persons of dividing Secondary Education into two branches in the office would not be adopted. To divide the office into three branches, and to call one Primary, the other Secondary, and the third Technical, is really a misuse of the word "Secondary." A great deal of technical education is quite as much secondary education as literary education. My noble friend talked of secondary education proper. That is not a convenient title, but it shows how difficult it is to adopt this division. Surely the natural division of the Education Office is into departments dealing with primary and secondary education. My noble friend has urged that this division should not be made, because literary education would suffer. I entirely agree with my noble friend in desiring that literary education should not suffer, but I confess that I look at the matter from a different point of view. My fear is that if the new Education Office is divided into tripartite arrangements of Primary, Secondary, and Technical Education Departments, literary education will suffer. No doubt some years ago the promotion of technical education was a matter of urgent importance. It is a matter of great importance now, but in consequence of the grants which were made—in the rather singular manner we all remember—to county councils for the promotion of education being confined to technical education, the result has been to give a stimulus to technical education, as compared with literary education, which is injuring the latter; and one of the great objects of my noble friend in his reorganisation ought to be to put literary education in

the provinces in its proper position by enabling the county councils to apply their funds in aid of literary secondary education, as well as of technical secondary education. I am not now speaking, as my noble friend has spoken, on behalf of the large public schools, but I believe that an increasing amount of what may be called technical education is being taught in these schools. I know many University colleges in the country in which technical education is being taught alongside with literary education. The principal University colleges of the present day give both kinds of education, and if you adopt a tripartite arrangement you will put these colleges under two different Departments. You will be perpetuating the somewhat narrow spirit of the Science and Art Department, you will not be raising secondary education and placing it on one equal footing, but you will be compelling those institutions which recognise the importance of secondary education in all its branches to go to two secretaries in the Education Office, who will probably look at the matter from a competitive point of view, which is very undesirable. What is the present state of things? You have confined the use which has been made of what we call in the North of England the whisky money, or the beer money, to technical education. What has been the consequence? The meaning of technical education has been stretched to almost breaking point, and anything in the world which is not Latin, Greek, History, or, possibly, Philosophy, is called technical education. This is a very unreal state of things, and I would ask the noble Duke not so utterly to commit himself as to preclude him from reconsidering this matter. I am sure that if there is any danger on the side alluded to by my noble friend, there is also great danger of literary education suffering from the tripartite arrangement.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, I have already stated that it is impossible to sketch out completely what will be the organisation of the future Education Department until the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the matter has reported. If my noble friend had given me notice I could have furnished him to-day with the names of the members of the Departmental Committee, but they will include Sir

The Marquess of Ripon.

Horace Walpole (of the India Office), as Chairman of the Committee; Sir George Kekewich, Secretary of the Education Department; Captain Abney, principal Assistant-Secretary of the Science and Art Department; Mr. Spring-Rice, of the Treasury; and Mr. Tucker, principal Assistant-Secretary of the Education Department. My noble friend asked me whether the interests of Secondary Education would be represented on this Committee. As the list of names which I have given will show, it is a purely Departmental Committee upon which no special form of education will be directly represented. Nor do I think, looking to the duties of this Committee, which are simply to organise a Department so as to enable it to discharge the new functions imposed upon it, it is desirable that the Committee should consist of persons particularly interested in any special form of education. It is far better to have it composed of persons of great administrative experience, who will be able to ascertain, so far as is necessary, the views of the various educational authorities. I quite admit, however, that, although I look to a great deal of assistance from this Committee, there are certain principles upon which educational authorities have a right to receive some information, and which are, perhaps, too important to be left entirely to the discretion of any Committee, however able may be the members of whom it is composed, and I will endeavour to state, as to those general principles, the views which I entertain as to the future organisation of the Department. I understand that some misapprehension has been caused by recent appointments which have been made in consequence of the resignation, at the expiration of his term of service, of Sir John Donnelly, late Secretary of the Science and Art Department. As a first step towards bringing together under one head the whole of the Education Department, Sir John Kekewich, the Secretary of the Education Department, has been appointed in addition to the position of Secretary of the Science and Art Department, and two principal Assistant Secretaries have been appointed in respect of Elementary and Science and Art instruction to discharge the duties which had hitherto been discharged by Sir John Kekewich and Sir John Donnelly respectively. Some misapprehension has been raised by these appoint-

ments in the minds of conductors of public schools, who think that this is a permanent arrangement, and was intended to place them in a subordinate position under a Department in the nature of the existing Science and Art Department, but that misapprehension is unfounded. This arrangement is purely a provisional one until the new Act comes into force, and there is no doubt that it will require some modification when, under the new Board of Education Act, the Board has to discharge wider duties than it now possesses in respect of Secondary Education. Notwithstanding the caution which has been given me by the noble Marquess opposite, I have no hesitation in saying that I am disposed to think that something in the nature of a tripartite organisation of the Department will be necessary. However, in saying that, I must not be understood to accept the principle of division suggested by the question of my noble friend, who divides the Board into primary, secondary, and technical Education Departments. That division takes no account whatever of the Science and Art instruction which has been carried on by the Science and Art Department, and which, of course, must be continued, or it assumes that the Science and Art teaching will become part of the secondary Education division. In my opinion, that would not be a convenient arrangement, and I am inclined to think that it will be necessary that Scientific, Artistic, and Technical Education will have to be continued to a great extent under a division similar in character to that which exists in the Science and Art Department. I quite admit that there are duties relating to what my noble friend has called Secondary Education proper, which will, on the passing of the Act, be for the first time entrusted to the Education Department, and which could not be properly and advantageously entrusted to such a Department as the present Science and Art Department. I think it will be necessary that a third division should be created, which will be independent of, and equally responsible to, the Permanent Secretary, as the divisions charged with Primary Education and Science and Art and Technical Education. In all the speculations which I have seen on the subject of the organisation of this Department, sufficient regard has not been had to the extremely close connection

that there will be between the various divisions of the Board in their subordination to the permanent head. Schools and educational authorities will, I conceive, have to deal not only with one division, but with the Department as a whole. There will be many cases, as, indeed, there are now, when the same school may have to communicate with more than one Department. For instance, it may be that while the public schools, great or small, will be mainly concerned with the Secondary Education division of the Department, they will, as to their science course of instruction, be in communication with the Science and Art division, and it may very well be that the inspectors specially attached to that division may be usefully employed to conduct the scientific examination of those schools. On the other hand, the County Council, in whose name the noble Marquess opposite spoke just now, will, so far as their existing work is concerned, be mainly in communication with the Science and Art Department; but if future legislation, as I hope it will, enables them to assume larger duties in regard to what is called education proper, there is nothing to prevent them, in so far as those duties are concerned, entering into direct communication with the Department charged more with the literary side of secondary education. I can assure those who are connected with the great public schools of the country that there is not the slightest intention of placing them in a position of undue subordination to any existing authority connected with the Science and Art Department. On the other hand, I do not think that any disposition will be found in the new Department to check or hamper the county councils in the direction of extending, as I hope they will extend, that education which they have given in certain scientific and technical subjects to the promotion of a wider and more complete course of secondary education.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, this is, of course, a matter concerning the internal management of the Department, and it will depend upon the spirit in which the Department is administered as a whole. Nothing to my mind would be more disastrous than to separate these Departments. They should constitute practically two Departments. There is great fear entertained that under

another name there may be perpetuated a system which, in the opinion of a great many persons, has not worked well up to the present. I am anxious to impress upon the noble Duke that what is wanted is that Secondary Education and questions connected with it should be considered as a whole, because I do not think there is anything more disastrous than the severing of good, sound, general education from scientific and artistic education. The practical working of the Department will depend largely upon the kind of authority which is exercised by the Permanent Under Secretary. My only reason for making these few observations is lest by any chance you should in any way drift into the former state of things in this new Department.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Seven o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 21st July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

BLACKPOOL IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

LOUGHBOROUGH CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (FINANCE) BILL [Lords].

PORT TALBOT RAILWAY AND DOCKS BILL [Lords].

WESTON-SUPER-MARE, CLEVEDON, AND PORTISHEAD TRAMWAYS COMPANY (LIGHT RAILWAY EXTENSIONS) BILL [Lords].

WHITEHAVEN CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

The Earl of Kimberley.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 9) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL [Lords].

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 13) BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee on the Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation and Great Southern and Western Railway Bills [Preamble not proved].

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Minutes of Proceedings to be printed. [No. 290].

PETITIONS.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN).

Petition of the Childhood Society, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petitions for alteration of law—From Eastwood, and Tyrie; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Werrington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

MALTA (POLITICAL CONDITION).

Return [presented 20th July] to be printed. [No. 287.]

QUEEN'S COLLEGE (CORK).

Copy presented of Report of the President for the Session 1898-9, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Copy presented of Report of the Commissioners for the period from 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (No. 15, 1899).

Copy presented of Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the Delimitation of their respective Possessions to the West of the Niger, and of their respective Possessions and Spheres of Influence to the East of that River. Signed at Paris, 14th June, 1898. Together with a Declaration completing the same. Signed at London, 21st March, 1899. Ratifications exchanged at Paris 13th June, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

Copy presented,—of Report of the Principal Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1899, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CIVIL SERVICES (SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1899-1900).

Estimate presented,—of the Further Sums required to be voted for the Service of the year ending 31st March, 1900 [by Command]; Referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 288.]

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

CHAMBER OF LONDON.

Annual Accounts of the Chamberlain of London for the year 1898 [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 289.]

METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANIES.

Ordered, That the Select Committee on Metropolitan Gas Companies have leave to sit To-morrow, notwithstanding the Adjournment of the House.—(Sir James Rankin.)

SEAMEN AND MARINES (PENSIONS).

Return ordered, "showing—

A.—Number of seamen and marines, according to latest returns, in re-

ceipt of the 5d. a day Greenwich Age Pension, and of those eligible on account of age and character but who have not yet been awarded it; to include men pensioned for life on account of injury or disability.

B.—Number of seamen and marines, according to latest Returns, in receipt of the increased age pension of 9d. a day, and of those eligible on account of age (viz., 65) and character, but who have not yet been awarded it.

C.—Total annual cost of pensions in force £
Capitalised estimated value of the pensions in force, supposing them to represent 2½ per cent. on a sum invested in Government Securities..... £

D.—Estimated annual official cost of paying such pensions £

E.—Approximate number of seamen and marines who entered before 1878, when the number of age pensions was by Order in Council limited to 7,500, and the approximate years in which they will attain the age of 55 :—

1899	.	.	.	.
1900	.	.	.	.
1901	.	.	.	.
1902	.	.	.	.
1903	.	.	.	.
1904	.	.	.	.
1905	.	.	.	.
1906	.	.	.	.
1907	.	.	.	.
1908	.	.	.	.
1909	.	.	.	.
1910	.	.	.	.
1911	.	.	.	.
1912	.	.	.	.
1913	.	.	.	.
1914	.	.	.	.
1915	.	.	.	.
1916	.	.	.	.
1917	.	.	.	.

F.—Average number of deaths during the past three years amongst the pensioners in receipt of the age and increased age pensions."—(Lord Charles Beresford.)

LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (Accounts under Section 1 (7) of the Act).

Return ordered, "showing, according to the Accounts for the twelve months preceding the 31st day of March, 1899, furnished to the Local Government Board under Section 1 (7) of the London (Equalisation of Rates) Act, 1894,—

- (1) The sanitary authorities to whom payments under the Act were made in the year by the London County Council;
- (2) The total amount of the sums so paid to every such authority;
- (3) The total amount of the expenses incurred by every such authority (a) under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891 (including expenses of scavenging street); (b) in respect of lighting; and (c) in respect of streets (other than the expenses of scavenging); and
- (4) The amount expended by each authority under each of the above headings out of the sums paid to such authority under the Act."—(Mr. T. W. Russell.)

LOCAL TAXATION LICENCES, 1898-9.

Return ordered, "of the amount received in respect of each administrative county and county borough in England and Wales for Local Taxation Duties and Penalties, under the Local Government Act, 1888, in the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899."—(Mr. T. W. Russell.)

POOR RELIEF (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Return ordered, "of Statement of the amount expended for In-maintenance and Out-door Relief in England and Wales during the half-year ended Lady Day, 1899:"

"And similar Statement for the half-year ending Michaelmas, 1899."—(Mr. T. W. Russell.)

LOCAL TAXATION (ENGLAND) ACCOUNT, 1898-9.

Return ordered, "showing, in respect of the financial year ended the 31st day of March, 1899 (1) the total amount of the Local Taxation Licenses and Estate Duty paid into the Local Taxation (Eng-

land) Account, and the amounts paid out of such Licenses and Estate Duty to, or on behalf of, the council of each administrative county and county borough; (2) the amounts paid out of the proceeds of the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Duties to each police authority in aid of police pension funds; and (3) the amounts paid out of the residue of the proceeds of those Duties to the council of each administrative county and county borough."—(Mr. T. W. Russell.)

FLEETS (GREAT BRITAIN AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES).

Return ordered, "showing the Fleets of Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Italy, United States of America, and Japan, distinguishing: Battleships, built and building; Cruisers, built and building; Coast Defence Vessels, built and building; Torpedo Vessels, Torpedo Boat Destroyers, and Torpedo Boats, built and building."

"Return to show date of launch, displacement, and armaments reduced to one common scale (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 206, of Session 1898)."—(Sir Charles Dilke.)

QUESTIONS.

ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY EXAMINATIONS.

SIR J. COLOMB (Yarmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether candidates for commissions in the Royal Marine Artillery have to pass, previous to joining the Royal Naval College, the same examinations as candidates for commissions in the Royal Artillery and Engineers have to pass, previous to joining the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich; could he state how much time is subsequently spent in studies and instruction at the Royal Naval College, the gunnery ship "Excellent," and at headquarters before the whole course of artillery training at the public cost is completed; whether, during the whole course of their professional career, these officers have to undergo various retrainings and examinations in order to secure continuous efficiency; is he aware that no officer of the Royal Navy has yet passed the Woolwich advanced artillery class, while certain

officers of the Royal Marine Artillery have done so, and hold the p.a.c. certificate; why it is the Admiralty do not now utilise, as formerly, the scientific, technical, and practical artillery knowledge of the Royal Marine Artillery officers, acquired at the expense of the State, by employing them on committees or in posts of administration specially concerned with naval ordnance and the artillery service of the fleet; whether he proposes to fully explain to the House, when in Committee on the Navy Estimates, the reasons of the Admiralty in generally excluding from duties they are specially trained to fulfil the officers of this branch of the naval service; and what is the policy of the Admiralty in respect of the use and application of this artillery corps.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. G. J. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): The answer to the first question is "Yes," and to the second question, "Three and a-half years." Officers of the Royal Marine Artillery are required to re qualify, and to pass the usual examinations for promotion, but these officers, unless they are gunnery instructors, are never, during their whole period of service, re-qualified in the Naval Gunnery Schools. The Admiralty have not considered it necessary to allow naval officers to go through the course referred to; but three officers, R.M.A., have passed the Artillery College. With reference to the last three questions, there is no system or policy of exclusion such as the hon. and gallant Member suggests, and accordingly I have no reasons to give. For example, three Marine Artillery officers are employed in the ordnance factories. The object of this valuable corps is to take their share in the artillery duties generally connected with the fleet; for example, they are specially employed in ships where there are the largest guns. They are not sent to the smaller ships. As regards the purely scientific side, the hon. and gallant Member should bear in mind that scientific matters relating to ordnance questions, both naval and military, are mainly dealt with by the War Department.

TRAINING SHIP TO VISIT STORNOWAY.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admi-

rality whether arrangements can be made for a training ship to visit Stornoway this year.

MR. GOSCHEN: A visit to Stornoway is included in the programme of the ensuing cruise of the "Northampton."

SUGAR FOR THE NAVY.

COLONEL MILWARD (Warwick, Stratford-on-Avon): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in ordering sugar for consumption in the Navy, preference is given to colonial grown and British refined sugar.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): The reply is in the affirmative. British refined sugar only is used in naval hospitals and for the manufacture of soluble chocolate. Since 1892 cane sugar only has been bought for the use of the fleet.

VOLUNTEER SERGEANT INSTRUCTORS AND RECRUITING.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to enforce the recently-issued order by which sergeant instructors of Volunteers are compelled to act as recruiters for the Army; whether he is aware that, despite the pledge given by the Secretary of State for War to the effect that non-commissioned officers shall not be taken away from the work of the corps to which they are attached, non-commissioned officers so attached have, in fact, been taken away from the work of their corps, and have been ordered to undertake recruiting duties at a distance from headquarters without their own commanding officers being consulted or even informed; whether the Secretary of State for War was correctly informed when he stated that whereas 135 Volunteer instructors obtained only fifteen recruits, one instructor alone obtained nineteen recruits; and whether it is the fact that the nineteen recruits in question were actually re-engaged telegraphists belonging to the Reserve.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR** (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The order referred to was a memorandum sent to General Officers Commanding Districts instructing them as to the use of the staff at their disposal

for recruiting. Part of that staff consists of the sergeant-instructors of Volunteers. No new obligation is imposed by the memorandum, which refers to rules that have been in force since 1881. The Volunteer Regulations lay down that a sergeant-instructor is not to be employed away from his station without the consent of his commanding officer, nor should any instructor be permitted to neglect his work with his corps for the sake of recruiting duties. No case of such neglect has been brought to the Secretary of State's notice. In reply to the third paragraph, the statement made by the Secretary of State was correct; but it differed from the figures in the question, as he said that 134 Volunteer sergeants had raised seventeen recruits. The nineteen recruits raised by one other sergeant did belong to the Telegraph Reserve or the Post Office Corps.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Is it intended to enforce the instruction?

***MR. WYNDHAM:** The General Officers have been reminded of their duties as laid down in the Regulations, and it is naturally expected that they will act in accordance with the terms of the memorandum.

WINCHESTER RIFLE RANGE.

MR. MYERS (Winchester): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he will state what steps are being taken to provide a rifle range for the City of Winchester and neighbourhood.

***MR. WYNDHAM:** The Secretary of State had hoped to establish a range at Chilcomb, but the price demanded for the land was so high that the proposed range has had to be abandoned.

ENLISTMENTS INTO THE ARMY AND MILITIA.

GENERAL RUSSELL (Cheltenham): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he has any objection to state the number of men who have enlisted into the Army and Militia respectively this year as compared with the same period last year.

***MR. WYNDHAM:** Up to the 30th June 17,434 men had enlisted for the regular Army and 21,268 had joined the Militia as against 17,789 and 22,440 respectively for the same period of 1898.

The enlistments stated above do not include 1,700 men for Colonial Corps as against 780 last year.

MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS.

GENERAL RUSSELL: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the regular Army and Militia are at this moment up to the full establishments voted by Parliament; and, if not, how many men are deficient in each service respectively.

***MR. WYNDHAM:** On the 1st July the Army was 16,884, the Militia 19,236 below the establishments voted. The hon. and gallant Member will recollect that so far as the Army is concerned the estimates for this year and for last year were presented to Parliament in a new form which gives, not the establishment for the year in question, but the ultimate establishment to be reached when the programmes of 1897, 1898, and 1899 shall have been completed, and that the date anticipated for that completion is the year 1901-2.

RANSOMS PAID TO BRIGANDS.

MR. PIERPOINT (Warrington): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what were the dates of the payments of the ransoms of Colonel Synge, who was captured by brigands near Salonika in February, 1880, and of Mr. Suter, who was captured by brigands near Salonika in April, 1881; what were the respective amounts in English money; and on what grounds these ransoms of two English subjects were paid out of the surplus of the Cyprus tribute instead of out of the English Treasury; whether the money so paid is regarded as a loan to the English Treasury from the surplus of the Cyprus tribute; and whether interest thereon is paid into the said surplus fund.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS** (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Colonel Synge's ransom was paid March 31st, 1880; Mr. Suter's May 26th, 1881. As will be seen from the Blue Book, Turkey, No. 11 (1881), page 39, the amount of the former ransom was £10,835 4s. 3d.; that of the latter £13,636. The grounds on which these ransoms were paid out of the surplus of the Cyprus tribute will be seen from Earl Granville's despatch to the

Earl of Dufferin of September 26th, 1881 (Turkey, No. 11, 1881, page 39). The answer to the remaining part of the question is in the negative.

TOULON MAGAZINE EXPLOSION.

ADMIRAL FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether our Ambassador at Paris can be requested to ascertain and report as to the recent disastrous explosion of the magazine at Toulon ; the causes of the said explosion ; the nature of the high explosives stored there ; the amount or weight of contents of magazine ; the distance of magazine from the dockyard ; and the number of lives lost and houses destroyed, the area of destruction, and the amount of damage done in or to the dockyard and town ; and whether the French authorities contemplate re-erecting the magazine on the old site, or whether it is to be removed to a greater distance from the town and dockyard, together with any other information tending to elucidate the mystery of the explosion, for our better information and guidance in the construction and position of magazines in this country.

***MR. BRODRICK** : Her Majesty's Government are fully alive to the importance of obtaining full information as to the cause of such an explosion as occurred at Toulon. A report has been obtained, but any information of this character relating to foreign arsenals is necessarily regarded as confidential.

ADMIRAL FIELD : Will the hon. Gentleman allow me to look at it ?

No answer was given.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS—SAMOA—ALASKA BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state when papers dealing with recent events in Samoa will be presented to Parliament ; and whether it is intended to place any papers upon the table of the House before the end of the Session relating to the disputes between the United States and Canada over the Alaska boundary question and other matters of contention between the two countries.

***MR. BRODRICK** : No papers with regard to Samoa can be presented until

the full Report of the Commission has been received. It is believed that the Commission will shortly leave Samoa. With regard to the second paragraph of the question the negotiations on the Alaska Boundary question are still in progress, and it would not therefore be practicable to lay any papers on the subject before the House at the present time.

THE RAMSGATE HARBOUR MASTERSHIP.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (York) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will postpone for a short time the question of filling up the vacancy caused by the death of Captain Jones, the harbour master at Ramsgate, so as to afford an opportunity of proposals being submitted to the Board of Trade for dealing with the whole question of the future arrangements of Ramsgate harbour.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) : Whatever may be the future in store for Ramsgate harbour, a harbour master will be necessary, and as it is very undesirable that this post should remain vacant for any lengthened period I propose to make the appointment without delay.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) : Has my right hon. friend considered as an alternative the desirability of making an interim arrangement for the duties of the post to be carried out, pending the settlement of the whole question as to the future ?

MR. RITCHIE : I feel bound to get the best man I can, and I do not think it desirable to delay filling the office.

BOY SAILORS FOR THE NAVY AND MERCANTILE MARINE.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether the scheme with regard to boy sailors, introduced by him into the Merchant Shipping (Mercantile Marine Fund) Act of last year, appears likely to prove a failure ; and, if so, whether, having regard to the admitted importance of the subject, he intends to propose any modification of the scheme.

MR. RITCHIE : As the scheme to which the right hon. Baronet refers only

came into operation on the 1st April, I think it would be premature to say definitely whether it is likely to prove a success or a failure. I am not prepared to propose any modification of it.

SCHOOL REGISTERS IN SCOTLAND.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he has considered the difficulties which will be imposed on teachers in keeping the register of the school in conformity with the requirements of Article 19, B 1, of the new code, which necessitates a constant watch for all children passing their seventh and tenth birthdays; and whether he could substitute one average grant for all children up to ten years old, instead of the two grants of 18s. and 20s. for children of seven years and ten years respectively.

***THE LORD ADVOCATE** (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The new code very greatly lessens the complication of the returns required, and it is not considered by the Department that the condition referred to imposes any undue burden on the teachers. The alternative suggested would cause financial difficulty, and is inexpedient from an educational point of view.

MINOR LIGHTHOUSES AND BRIDGES IN SCOTLAND.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that it is stated in a memorandum by the Under Secretary for Scotland, on page 6 of the Congested Districts Board Report, that fresh legislation seems to be required to secure the maintenance of minor lighthouses and bridges unfit for cart traffic, will he state whether any arrangements have yet been made by which these minor lighthouses and bridges may be prevented from falling into decay; and, if not, will he state what action it is proposed to take in the matter.

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY**: The Secretary for Scotland has nothing to add to the reply given by me to the hon. Member a week ago.

MR. WEIR: Am I to understand that nothing is to be done?

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY**: If the hon. Member would further, instead of

opposing, the Congested Districts Board Bill, something might be done.

PORTMAHOMACK HARBOUR.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland is aware that the construction of a light railway between Fearn and Portmahomack, for which he granted a certificate some time back, is in great measure dependent on Portmahomack Harbour being so improved as to be available for moderate-sized boats at all states of the tide; and will he take this point into consideration with a view to approaching the Treasury for a grant in aid of the improvement of the harbour.

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY**: I have already informed the hon. Member as to the conditions under which the Secretary for Scotland would be disposed to recommend a grant to Treasury, in respect of Portmahomack Harbour.

PEDDIESTON SCHOOL WATER SUPPLY.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the fact that, on the 27th of June last, it was stated that the material required for completing the contract for conducting water to the Peddiston Public School and the farm towns of Ardivall and Muirton (Black Isle) was expected by the local authority to be received during the week, will he state whether progress is now being made with the work, and when it is expected to be complete.

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY**: Yes, Sir, progress is being made, but I am not prepared to fix an exact day and say that the work will be completed on that day.

STORNOWAY PRISON.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the fact that the protest of the Ross and Cromarty County Council against the proposal to discontinue Stornoway Prison, and convert it into licensed police cells, has been under the consideration of the Secretary for Scotland for some time, will he state when a decision of the subject may be expected; and, if a decision has already been arrived at, will he state its nature.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Secretary for Scotland has already informed the County Council of Ross and Cromarty that, after full consideration, he has decided for the present not to close Stornoway Prison.

POOR RELIEF IN SCOTLAND.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state whether, in view of the petitions which have been presented to the House of Commons in favour of the repeal of the 37th section of the Poor Law Act for the relief of the poor in Scotland, the Secretary for Scotland will consider the expediency of introducing legislation on the subject early next session.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Secretary for Scotland has no information as to petitions which are presented to the House of Commons, and in any case he is not prepared to come under an obligation about legislation for next session at the present time.

DEER FOREST RETURN.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state when the Deer Forest Return, which was granted on 14th March last, will be laid upon the Table of the House.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Return will be laid on the Table of the House in the course of a few days.

GOATS AND TUBERCULOSIS.

MR. STEPHENS (Middlesex, Hornsey): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he has observed, from the memorandum included in the Report of the Delegates of Her Majesty's Government on the International Congress on Tuberculosis, that goats are stated to be refractory to tuberculosis infection; whether he is aware that, owing to difficulties connected with the supply of milk by farmers, the rural poor are in the main dependent upon goats for their milk supply; and whether he is disposed to recognise the importance of the production and use of goats' milk in the arrangements and regulations of the Board of Agriculture.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liver-

pool, West Derby): I have seen the memorandum to which my hon. friend refers, and although I could not associate myself with so strong a statement of the position in regard to the supply of goat's milk as that contained in the second paragraph of his question, I shall always be happy to do anything in my power to promote its production, consistently with my statutory obligations under the Diseases of Animals Acts.

THE MENTAL CONDITION OF CONVICTS.

MR. YOXALL (Nottinghamshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what manner medical evidence as to the sanity or insanity of a convict is taken by the Crown; is there a printed form of questions to be answered; and, if so, will he lay a copy of the form upon the Table of the House; whether the medical opinion sought is confined to inquiry as to the state of mind and responsibility of the convict at the date of the criminal act; and whether a statement of the ascertained family history of a convict suspected of inherited insanity is included in the evidence on which medical opinion is required.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): The discretion of the medical men, whose opinion is obtained by me from time to time with regard to the mental condition of convicts is not restricted in any way by a form of questions. In the case of inquiry into the mental condition of a convict under sentence of death I proceed in accordance with Section 2 of the Criminal Lunatics Act of 1884, which says that the doctors when appointed "shall forthwith examine such prisoner and inquire as to his insanity," and shall then report in writing to me. It is obvious that any medical man in forming an opinion on a question of this kind must take into consideration a convict's family history, and all available evidence on this point is always placed before the medical men charged with the inquiry. They are expected to report on all the aspects of the case, including the past mental history of the convict as well as his state of mind when the crime was committed and at the trial.

COTTAGE HOMES SELECT COMMITTEE.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Local Government Board why the evidence given before the Cottage Homes Select Committee has not yet been published, and when it will be published.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.): I hope it will be issued within the next few days.

EDINBURGH CASTLE.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he has yet been able to make arrangements under which Edinburgh Castle will be kept open for inspection by the public on Saturday afternoon until a later hour than at present.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): Yes, Sir. The new arrangement is now in force, and will be tried experimentally during the summer both at Edinburgh Castle and at Holyrood Palace.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE POSTAL SERVICE.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if, in view of his promise on 11th August last, he has looked into the matter of Volunteers employed on what is known as the minor establishment of the Post Office; and if he is now prepared to allow them the same privilege as is accorded to the employees on what is known as the major establishment of attending the camp at Aldershot without being the losers either monetarily or in time deducted from vacation.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): I have made further inquiry into this matter, and I find that every facility consistent with the interests of the public service is given to all grades of Post Office employees to attend annual camps of exercise; and in a large number of cases the men are enabled to attend without expense to themselves. I think that the existing arrangements are sufficiently liberal, and that it would not be justifiable to increase the charge which now falls on

public funds. I do not consider that the practice—if it exists—of allowing special leave to officers of the upper ranks of the service for the purpose of attending camp should be continued. Such absence should count as part of the officer's ordinary vacation.

ILKESTON POSTMEN'S GRIEVANCES.

MR. STEADMAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if any decision has yet been come to on the memorial, dated March last, of six Ilkeston postmen asking for payment of a 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. collection duty, which they do in rotation and for which they have received no remuneration for six years.

MR. HANBURY: It appears on inquiry that the application referred to was made to the local postmaster in April last, and the postmen were then informed by him that the arrangements at Ilkeston were under revision, and that their complaint would receive attention. It has not yet been practicable to complete the revision; but the duties of the postmen in question are now being tested, and should it appear that there has been any deficiency in the past payments for Sunday duty, care will be taken that the postmen receive the amounts properly due to them for the work.

NORWICH POSTMEN'S STRIPES.

MR. STEADMAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if he can explain the reason for the delay which prevails in the matter of awarding stripes earned by Norwich postmen; whether he is aware that thirty Norwich men are awaiting stripes, some of them for a period of two years; and whether he will consent to reconsider the case of two men (Woodhouse and Saunders) whose colleagues feel that stripes due to them have been harshly withheld for offences of a very trivial character.

MR. HANBURY: My attention has been called to the case of these postmen by my two hon. friends the Members for Norwich. As I have already explained to them, considerable delay has occurred in dealing with the cases of the postmen referred to in the first part of the question owing to difficulties in verifying the men's auxiliary or unestablished service

and to pressure of work in the Surveyor's Office. It is expected that they will be completed in a very short time, and such good conduct stripes as may be awarded will, of course, date back to the time when the men become eligible to receive them. As regards Postmen Woodhouse and Saunders their good conduct stripes have been awarded strictly in accordance with the rules, and there is nothing to take the cases out of the ordinary course. Five consecutive years' unblemished service is necessary to obtain a good conduct stripe, and Woodhouse received one as from 1st April, 1897. Saunders' stripe dates from 12th December, 1896; and in neither case can another stripe be gained till five years from those dates. Neither of these men was eligible to receive a stripe before the date on which the award was made.

THE KINGSTOWN NEWSMAN.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the case of Mr. Davy Stephens, of Kingstown ; and, if anything can be done to remedy his grievances.

MR. HANBURY : Davy Stephens was the only vendor of newspapers, etc., admitted on the Carlisle Pier and mail boats for many years. In May last application was made to the Board of Works by the firm of Messrs. Eason for permission to admit one of their employees to the Mail Packet Pier, Kingstown, to sell newspapers, etc. The Board communicated with the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company, whose passengers are mainly concerned, and as it was shown that the increased traffic on the mail steamers called for increased facilities, they gave—in agreement with the company—the permission sought for by Messrs. Eason, but otherwise made no change as regards Stephens. The City of Dublin Steam Packet Company accorded permission to Messrs. Eason to sell newspapers, etc., on their steamers, but Stephens has not been excluded from the steamers.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE : Will the right hon. Gentleman ascertain if the Steam Packet Company will allow Stephens to retain his old position on the gangway of the boats ?

MR. HANBURY : I think the only difference is that he had a monopoly before ; now he has a competitor.

MR. DAVITT : Is it not a fact that this picturesque personality has been in this position for the last fifty-two years ? Is it not cruel to take it away from him now ?

MR. HANBURY : I believe he has been in the position a long time. I will see if anything more can be done.

LETTERFRACK LETTER DELIVERIES.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if he is aware that the morning delivery of letters in Letterfrack, County Galway, is almost invariably late, and that great inconvenience is caused thereby to the residents and tourists ; whether he is aware that the local post office officials have notified to those now having their letters delivered on Sundays that in future such delivery will not be made ; and if he will take steps to have the letters delivered on Sundays as heretofore.

MR. HANBURY : Letterfrack is served by road from Galway, a distance of about fifty miles. During the last four weeks the mail car has reached Letterfrack late on fifteen occasions. The average time lost on the journey has been eleven minutes, due chiefly to heavy parcel mails. Every effort is made to maintain punctuality, and having regard to the difficulties of the service, very fair time is being kept. The Sunday delivery was temporarily discontinued under a misapprehension, and will be restored forthwith.

WARING STREET POST OFFICE, BELFAST.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, will he explain why the clerks employed in the Waring Street Office, Belfast, are not afforded the privilege of rotation, as intimated in a recent reply, and will the Department consider the matter ; and did the Department, before the employment of this place as an office, feel satisfied that the necessary sanitary arrangements had been provided.

MR. HANBURY: The post office in Waring Street, Belfast, is a town sub-office, and until lately the post office duties were performed by assistants in the service of the sub-postmaster. Now there are three women attached to the office who are established, but who are paid on a lower scale of wages than the head office staff, and consequently do not rotate with the head office staff. It is not usual to inspect the sanitary arrangements at a sub-office, and it is not likely that any such examination was made in 1887 when the Waring Street office was opened, but it is reported that at present sanitary arrangements in the office premises are quite satisfactory.

AGRICULTURAL TEACHING IN IRISH SCHOOLS.

MR. O'MALLEY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that a new and very difficult text-book on agriculture has been introduced into Irish national schools, and was made compulsory in October last year; whether he is aware that each class, beginning with the junior fifth, is required to know, in order to merit a pass in this subject, the special portions of the programme for the preceding classes in addition to its own; and, if such is the case, will he recommend the Commissioners of National Education to instruct their school inspectors not to insist at the results examination, particularly in Irish-speaking localities, for the next few years on a knowledge from any one class of the programme in agriculture for the preceding classes.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR (Leeds, Central)): The new edition of the Agricultural Text-book contains substantially the same matter as the old edition. It is written in a simpler style, and is thus less difficult for children to learn. As a rule pupils are expected to be prepared for examination in the parts of a subject studied in previous years. A relaxation of this rule was allowed in the case of agriculture on the introduction of the new text-book, and this relaxation will be continued to the required extent as long as may be deemed necessary. As regards the third paragraph, the Commissioners do not consider it advisable to make a difference in the standard of examination in different localities.

THE IRISH LANGUAGE IN IRISH SCHOOLS.

MR. O'MALLEY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the requirements of the Irish National School programme in all subjects are as stringently exacted by some inspectors in Irish speaking localities where the pupils hardly ever hear English spoken outside the school-room, as they are in Dublin, Belfast, or other exclusively English-speaking districts; and whether he will recommend that a lower standard of answering be accepted for pass marks in Irish-speaking districts, particularly in such subjects as reading, composition, &c.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I have referred this question to the Commissioners of National Education, who state they believe that every reasonable allowance is made by their inspectors for any local difficulties experienced by the pupils attending the National Schools in Irish-speaking districts. The commissioners also state that it is not practicable to lay down a second standard examination in the results programme, but that any difficulty as regards reading in the few remote localities where Irish is still largely spoken is met, as far as possible, by the regulation that an explanation may be accepted in Irish if the pupil is unable to give it in English.

THE GRENADIER GUARDS.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office a question of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether a decision has yet been come to as to the claim of the First Battalion Grenadier Guards for £300 for the loss of their canteen stores in the Nile last year.

***THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE** (Mr. J. POWELL WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): Yes, Sir, a decision has been come to to allow the sum of £341, the amount claimed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): It may be for the convenience of the House if I state that I propose to take the Food

and Drugs Bill as first Order on Monday. The Irish Agriculture and Technical Instruction Bill will be taken second, the Telephones Bill third, and the Scotch Private Legislation Procedure Bill fourth. I understand that there is very little left to discuss in the Food and Drugs Bill, and that the Irish Agriculture Bill should not take long, and I hope to get to the Scotch Procedure Bill at a time which will enable me to fulfil my promise to an hon. Gentleman opposite that he shall have an opportunity of stating his views some time before twelve o'clock. On Tuesday I propose to take the Colonial Loans Bill first, the Naval Works Bill second, and the Committee stage of the Niger Bill third. It must be understood, however, that that programme is necessarily dependent upon the progress made on Monday. I propose to take the Colonial Vote on Friday next, because I understand that that is in accordance with the wish of the right hon. Gentleman opposite; but I hope the House will allow me to get certain non-contentious Votes first. It is extremely important that these Votes should be passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

With an Amendment.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY BILL.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION BILL.

DERBY CORPORATION TRAMWAYS, &c., BILL.

With Amendments.

Amendments to—

METROPOLIS MANAGEMENT ACTS AMENDMENT (BYE-LAWS) BILL [Lords].

GREENOCK AND PORT GLASGOW TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

SOUTH HANTS WATER BILL [Lords].

Without Amendment.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

Lords Amendment to be considered upon Monday next.

COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES BILL. [Lords].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 285.]

ANCIENT MONUMENTS PROTECTION.

Bill to amend the Ancient Monuments Protection Acts, ordered to be brought in by Lord Balcarres, Sir John Brunner, Sir John Lubbock, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Carson, and Sir John Stirling-Maxwell.

TRADE MARKS.

Bill to amend and consolidate the Law relating to Trade Marks, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Moulton, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Kearley and Mr. Provand.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS PROTECTION BILL.

"To amend the Ancient Monuments Protection Acts," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 286.]

TRADE MARKS BILL.

"To amend and consolidate the Law relating to Trade Marks," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 287.]

SUPPLY [20TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

1. Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,601,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the expense of the Contract Work for Shipbuilding, Repairs, etc., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

*MR. WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead) : In rising to move the motion which stands in my name for the reduction of this Vote by £1,000, I must say I am impelled to take this course for two reasons; the first mechanical, and the second monetary. In regard to the first, I do not intend to traverse the ground I have gone over this last four or five years in respect of the.

machinery which is fitted on board Her Majesty's ships. It would weary the House to go too much into detail, and a purely mechanical discussion would be out of place in this Committee. But at the same time events which have occurred in the fleet during the last twelve months have shown that there must be something seriously wrong in the mechanical arrangements of our splendid vessels. When I read of the trial trips which have taken place, and of the mobilisation of the fleet now in operation, I see there are grave grounds for dread as to what would be the condition of our ships in war time. I find that two of our first-class cruisers, the "Europa" and the "Argonaut," which performed their trial trips in a highly satisfactory manner, are now wounded ducks, and cannot keep up with the fleet. And when I turn to other vessels, I find the "Perseus," the "Pactolus," the "Pegasus," the "Niobe," and the "Pelorus," are all more or less in a very bad condition. The general complaint is simply this: that the boilers of these vessels are insufficient for the work required of them. I think that is pretty well proved by reports received from independent sources. This is a matter of national interest. Our ships ought to be the best in the world. We pay the best money, and we ought to have the best ships. But what do I find? We are brought face to face with a very serious state of affairs indeed. Let me give the House one illustration to show the peculiar condition in which our Admiralty places itself. Take the case of the Royal yacht. Here is a splendid vessel built, practically, to carry passengers. She is fitted with Belleville boilers. Mark this point. Had that vessel been fitted under the supervision of the Board of Trade instead of by a Government Department like the Admiralty, this yacht would not have been given a longer warranty for her boilers than three months. The Board of Trade was instituted to insure the safety of life and property in ships. Its engineers are the best in the country. The head Surveyor of the Board of Trade is a man who, I believe, has not his equal in practical experience in engineering. The engineers of the Board of Trade are first-class practice men with sea-going and shore experience. These are the men who control the Board of Trade, and, practically, the Mercantile Marine of this country in

the boiler and engine department. The Admiralty engineers say that these boilers of this new yacht will last two commissions, yet the Board of Trade would not pass them for more than three months. Here is an anomaly to which I want to direct the attention of this House. We have two Government Departments differing as to what is the life of a boiler. I now come to the case of other ships fitted with the Belleville boilers. I sympathise with the First Lord of the Admiralty very much. He was left a legacy by the former government, and he is now endeavouring, by all the means in his power, to make a success of the work bequeathed to him. The fates, however, are against him. Take to-day's news of the fleet. We have here the report of the Admiral. What do I find in it? I find that the Admiral signalled "Too much smoke." Now, of all things the one most calculated to defeat the object of a fleet is that it should issue too much smoke, because it shows the enemy where you are and what you are doing. What do the engineers say about these boilers? The engineer of the "Europa" says he wishes he had no Belleville boilers at all. Take another phase of the question. The "Argonaut" and the "Furious" are only one-third of the size of the "Majestic," yet they consume more than double the quantity of coal.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's Hanover-square): What are you quoting from?

*MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: From an article by a correspondent on board a warship in which he embodies information which he got from the engineer. It is a well-known fact that these boilers do consume double the quantity of coal than the boilers of an ordinary merchant ship would do. Again, they must always be fired with Welsh coal. The First Lord of the Admiralty told us that, and I would like to know what these vessels are going to do when they are at a place at which they cannot get Welsh coal. The question comes to be very serious from this point of view. Then again, we have the condemnation of these boilers by the Board of Trade in a Report issued the other day under the Boilers Explosions Act. The Report of

Mr. William Allan.

the head surveyor of the Board of Trade on this point is simply startling. He says the failure of the tubes of water-tube boilers is known to be of common occurrence, and that the bursting of a tube not only disables a boiler entirely until repairs are effected, but is a source of danger to human life. These boilers are condemned by men of all ranks, from the admiral down to the stoker. We want to have men on board our ships, men who will not only stand up before the enemy's guns, but who will stand in the stoke-hold and engine room and serve steadily while the vessel is under fire. I have letters from firemen and engine-room artificers complaining of the nervous dread they feel when they go into the stoke hold in case one of the tubes should burst. I have here a letter from a man on board the "Diadem," which I think, if I read it, would startle the House. He says they fear to open a furnace door. Why should all this occur when it could easily be avoided? Without the necessity for all this danger we could still ensure that our ships should be the first and finest in the world. I do not believe that there is a marine-engine builder in this country who would not condemn the present system of boilering Her Majesty's ships. And, what is more, that system brings us face to face with fearful expense. Take, in fact, the case of the "Terrible" itself. She is being re-boilered at an expense of I do not know how much. You are converting the dockyards into repairing shops for your ships, and I have here some figures showing the enormous cost you are incurring for minor repairs. On the "Benbow," practically a new ship, in 1895-96 there was spent £5,939, in 1896-97 £5,200, and in 1897-98 £10,028. On the "Empress of India" £10,146 had been spent, and on the "Magnificent" in 1895-96 £975, in 1896-97 £6,666, and in 1897-98 £10,233. Remember all these were "minor repairs." On the "Blake," a first-class cruiser, £1,180 was spent in 1895-96, £10,503 in 1896-97, and in 1897-98 £9,990. On the "Blenheim" in 1895-96 the repairs cost £6,280, in 1896-97 £5,953, and in 1897-98 £8,659. The "Powerful" in 1897-98 cost £6,900 and the "Terrible" £6,579. I am only trying to show the House how the money goes. We vote the money willingly, and we expect to have a strong and grand fleet. Now I come to the case of some of the torpedo boats which have been built lately.

MR. GOSCHEN: I want this to be made clear. The hon. Member is not merely referring to vessels fitted with water-tube boilers. The impression of my right hon. friend is that these ships are all fitted with water-tube boilers. I am afraid that some hon. Members do not quite understand the fact. That is not the case.

*MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: Some of them are, and the figures show something is wrong. Now, I find that in the case of the torpedo boat destroyers £778 was spent on the "Hardy" in 1896-7, and in the following year £2,000 for minor repairs. On the "Bruiser," in 1895-6 £600 was spent, and last year £2,000 odd; on the "Havoc," £1,501 in 1895-6, £1,361 in 1896-7, and £770 in 1897-8. In the same three years respectively the expenditure on the "Hornet" was £3,736, £2,122, and £983. Surely this list shows conclusively that you are converting your dockyards into nothing else but repair shops. Another point to be borne in mind is that you are making your engines of such light scantlings that they come back to your dockyards practically as wrecks. There is no single ship you have boilered lately that you can take the trial trip speed out of a week after it has completed its dockyard trials. You dare not steam all your boilers at once, nor can you go at full steam for any length of time. What is the use of having a ship purporting to do a certain number of knots per hour when you cannot get them out of her? Yet that is the condition to which you are reducing your Navy. Independent investigation is necessary. The country is beginning to see that a foolish policy was hastily determined upon without due experiment. No shipowner with business instincts would have adopted these boilers without giving them a more thorough trial. You are brought face to face with the fact that our ships are easily crippled, and I tell the House that the men engaged in the engine-rooms do not know from one moment to another when four or five of these tubes may burst. I say it is a shame that such a state of things should prevail. I therefore appeal to the First Lord of the Admiralty to accede to my modest request and take this matter into his own hands. Let him appoint an independent committee of experts to make an honest investigation as to the

true condition of our ships. I beg to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,600,000, be granted for the said service."—(Mr. William Allan.)

MR. GOSCHEN: I think the best opening I can make to the few remarks it will be my duty to offer to the Committee in reply to the hon. Member will be to state the position of the water-tube boiler question, not only as regards this country, but as regards its adoption generally. The hon. Member continually raises this question, as if this country has entered upon some dangerous experiment without any opinion or experience to guide it, and in this way has adopted a policy which cannot command the approval of the people. I may tell the House that whatever this country may do in the matter of the water-tube boiler, that boiler as an engine of war has been adopted by the world at large; and we have to consider not only how we stand in the abstract, but how we should stand with reference to any possible enemies if we should go back from the water-tube to the cylindrical boiler. The water-tube boiler has been adopted by France, Italy, Russia, Holland, and Japan. Eight of the old French ships are to be re-boilered with the water-tube boiler instead of the cylindrical boiler. The United States are also fitting the boiler in a number of their vessels. Would all these countries have so acted had there not been strong strategic military and naval reasons for the adoption of these boilers? I do not know whether the hon. Member is aware that in the Mediterranean six first-class French ironclads are all fitted with these boilers. This country did not embark in the use of the water-tube boiler as early as France. In consequence the Minister of Marine was able to state to the Chamber of Deputies that the ships of the French Mediterranean squadron were faster than the English battleships there. That is a statement I am not prepared to deny. It may be that they have not got any real advantage, but on the whole possibly it is on their side. Supposing in this state of facts we had gone on rejecting the water-tube boilers, what would have been said of the British Admiralty and the way it was neglecting the naval

interests of the country? This country has been twice behindhand, once with the breechloading system, and again with armoured ships. My predecessors in office who had to deal with the question were not prepared to allow a state of things to continue under which the same state of things might have happened in regard to boilers as happened in regard to those other most important conditions affecting the Navy, and consequently they took the responsibility, and I believe the right responsibility, of introducing water-tube boilers. Half of the difficulties which have been pointed out by the hon. Member are due to this—that when you change your cylindrical boilers to water-tube boilers there must come a period during which the experience of the new boilers is not sufficiently great to avoid a number of small defects and small difficulties. But it has been proved over and over again that the longer a ship with water-tube boilers is in commission the more quickly all those difficulties vanish, and the vessel, without any trouble whatever, runs at a greater speed than any British warship has ever done before. The "Powerful," which has been denounced by the hon. Member, has been two years in commission, and we never hear now of any defects or any difficulties: on the contrary, we hear of runs which she has made superior in speed to any which have been accomplished by any cruisers with cylindrical boilers or any other men-of-war.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley): What was the length of the runs?

MR. GOSCHEN: There was one successful run of the ordinary kind a man-of-war has to perform—from Hong-kong to Manila—and there was another from Wei-hai-wei. There was one run of 24 hours at which the speed was 20 knots the whole time, making 480 knots in the 24 hours. When hon. Members compare these performances with those of mercantile ships they ought to remember that mercantile ships are constructed for totally different objects—for long voyages at the same continuous speed, whereas the chief duty of our men-of-war will not be to cross the Atlantic at the highest possible speed. What they have to do is to keep in touch with the enemy and overhaul it if possible. Therefore,

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what they require is not long continuous steaming, but the power of very rapid steaming for a certain number of hours, and during periods when naval operations and tactics would take place. Now the "Terrible," for instance, has made runs to Gibraltar faster than any ship of her size has ever done. The hon. Member fixes his mind upon two or three ships early in their commissions, but such ships as the "Niobe," "Diadem," and "Argonaut" have been attached to the Channel Squadron, and they have been doing the same work as the other ships of the squadron. A number of ships with water-tube boilers have been sent to foreign stations, and there is no reason to believe that they are not performing the functions required of them. But one thing I frankly and freely acknowledge, and that is that ships with water-tube boilers require more careful and disciplined stoking than vessels with cylindrical boilers, and therefore, it is frequently not at the commencement of the commission that they can be expected to show their best features. Indeed, they often show defects which are quickly remedied when once the ship has settled down to work. The hon. Member has alluded to two ships in the manœuvres. Now, I wish to say with regard to all those ships that the Admiralty has put them to much severer trials than any ships previously have been put to. The former shorter trials have been lengthened into sixty hours' trials, and the "Terrible" has already steamed 20,000 miles. She performed the sixty hours' trial with perfect success. The two ships mentioned, the "Europa" and the "Argonaut," have only been a few days in commission. There are crews in them the majority of whom have had no experience of Belleville boilers at all. That in itself is a severe test, and we have every confidence that the slight difficulties which have occurred will be successfully surmounted. There has been some leakage in connection with the boilers, and so far as I know, the same experience happens in vessels with cylindrical boilers at the beginning of the ship's commission. There is nothing whatever to alarm the country in what has taken place. With regard to the torpedo-destroyers, if we want to have them of 30-knot speed, they must be equipped with machinery so light that defects will occasionally be exposed.

Accordingly, in calculating the number of torpedo-destroyers allowance must be made for a certain number having to go into dock. But as we get more experience those defects vanish, and from the fact that other Powers are following us in building this particular class of ship, the Admiralty believe that we have in those torpedo-destroyers a very valuable fighting machine. The hon. Member spoke of the defects of the "Terrible." I believe there are some 7,600 tubes in the "Terrible," yet, during her two years' commission, I think only about 250 have had to be renewed.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: Why, then, was she so long under repair?

MR. GOSCHEN: Other tubes had to be cleaned. The hon. Member probably knows that rust gets into the tubes, and it was in connection with this rust that a deplorable accident took place recently. This has taken some time, and there were some matters connected with the auxiliary machinery to which attention was being paid, and in which improvements were possible. As to the question of coal consumption, it must be borne in mind that in new ships there is a good deal of auxiliary machinery for which coal has to be provided, and which is not to be found in the old ships. There is the apparatus for electric lighting, and for condensing purposes, for instance. With reference to what the hon. Gentleman said about the stokers, I am not prepared to accept the view that British stokers are more nervous than the stokers of other countries, who have for some time past successfully kept these ships at sea. It is absolutely necessary to introduce these boilers, and it will be necessary to maintain them for the reasons I have recently explained. Water-tube boilers can get up steam almost at once, while cylindrical boilers cannot, and that is one of the strategic reasons which have influenced this country in adopting them. But we must pass through a period of transition. Stokers require to be trained in the use of these boilers, and until they are trained perfection cannot be expected.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY: The hon. Member for Gateshead has attacked

the Belleville boiler as if it had no redeeming feature. The water-tube boiler was a novelty introduced into the Navy by hon. Gentlemen opposite on the recommendation of a Committee. That Committee recommended that one ship should be fitted with water-tube boilers, but instead of only fitting one ship several were fitted, and the succeeding administration brought this novel type of boiler into the Navy wholesale, and new ships are not now fitted with any other type. The question of importance is what is the reasonable expectation of the endurance of these boilers at sea. It is true they have the advantage of getting up steam very quickly, but can they be relied on? The Admiralty have been challenged for years to send a vessel fitted with these boilers on a long ocean trip. The "Terrible" was sent on a trip, but the record was not such as to show that the boilers were capable of long endurance at sea.

MR. GOSCHEN: There was nothing wrong with the boilers.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY: The right hon. Gentleman is quite right; there was nothing wrong with the boilers, but were they proved to be effective? The engines broke down and it was impossible to test the boilers to their full power, and although there was nothing wrong with them there was nothing to prove that they were capable of prolonged endurance at sea.

MR. GOSCHEN: There were two sixty-hour trials. In the first there was a speed of $19\frac{1}{2}$ knots, and in the second 20·7 knots for over 1,200 miles. My hon. friend will surely admit that that is a good performance.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY: That is a most encouraging performance, and I am exceedingly glad that the right hon. Gentleman has given us the figures, because I understood from him that the best result he could look forward to was a speed of 20 knots for twenty-four hours, and I am delighted to learn that such an important ship as the "Terrible" can steam 20·7 knots for sixty hours. May I suggest that there is still

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something the Admiralty might do? The right hon. Gentleman expressed a few moments ago the hope that hon. Members would show more respect for the technical opinion of the Engineer-in-Chief to the Navy than the hon. Gentleman opposite had shown. I give the fullest deference to the skill, experience, and knowledge of the Engineer-in-Chief, but I think he would be well advised, after the very satisfactory and encouraging experiment with the "Terrible," if he went further, and advised the Admiralty to order a very much longer trial at full speed. In my opinion, this is the most vital question connected with the steam branch of naval machinery at the present time, because unless we can depend absolutely on the endurance of the boilers in our ships, all our preparations with regard to armour and the training of men will be quite futile. There are no other means of making our ships live engines of war, and we should thoroughly test any doubt which may exist regarding the sufficiency and enduring quality of our boilers. While congratulating the Admiralty on the excellent results they have obtained on this question of endurance, I must say they have yet some distance to travel, and I hope that when the subject is discussed next session the right hon. Gentleman will be able to say that perhaps half a dozen of our powerful cruisers fitted with water-tube boilers have been tested from port to port across the ocean at high speed. I congratulate the right hon. Gentleman on what has been already achieved.

SIR U. KAY - SHUTTLEWORTH (Lancashire, Clitheroe): A debate on this subject is necessarily of a technical character, and I feel some diffidence in interfering in such a technical subject. But as reference has been made to the Board of Admiralty to which I and my hon. friend belonged, and which did take the grave responsibility of introducing water-tube boilers into Her Majesty's Navy, I may state that the credit belongs to the technical advisers of the Board of Admiralty for the new departure. I hope the time will never come when Members of the House of Commons in debating a subject of this kind will discourage the officers and officials of the Admiralty from such courageous action as that displayed by the Engineer-in-

Chief in taking the great responsibility of urging the adoption of a new invention like the water-tube boiler in Her Majesty's Navy. As we have been reminded by the First Lord, we have dropped behind in this country on more than one occasion, owing to our reluctance to undertake the introduction of new inventions at a sufficiently early moment. I hope the House of Commons will shrink from taking any attitude which would check the scientific advisers of the Board of Admiralty or the War Office in their readiness to advise that new scientific instruments should be tested.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: Why did the right hon. Gentleman go against the recommendations of his own Boiler Committee?

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: It is not correct to say that the Board of Admiralty went against the recommendations of the Boiler Committee. We acted in accordance with those recommendations, but we went further, and we carried them forward at a very much bolder pace. What were the circumstances? In the French navy all ships to be constructed, with the exception of one cruiser, were to be fitted with water-tube boilers. That was a very important fact, because the French had had greater experience in this particular invention than we had, and they had decided to fit all their new vessels, except one, with these boilers. We had the experience of the Messageries Maritimes, and we had the advantage of the views of an engineer who had made a long voyage in one of the ships in that company, and observed the working of the water-tube boilers. We had the clear advice of Sir John Durston. The present Board of Admiralty has gone forward more rapidly than the late Board of Admiralty in regard to these water-tube boilers, because they have decided to put them into battleships. The adoption of water-tube boilers by all the maritime nations of the world has encouraged the Admiralty to adopt them. I hope the Committee of the House of Commons will at no time make the mistake of putting a brake on a public Department when they are inclined to act boldly, and to adopt a new invention.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: It is not a new invention at all, it is only a new application.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: I will not quarrel with my hon. friend about whether it is a new invention, or a new application; my argument remains good. If an advantage is to be obtained by the adoption of a new system or from a new advance in science, my hon. friend and others ought not to discourage the Department from giving the country the advantages of these.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: There are none.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: Is it not a great advantage that steam can be raised from cold water in one hour instead of six to twelve hours?

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: No.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: What is the consequence of that upon the coal endurance of our ships? A ship, for instance, is in harbour, and she receives a signal to proceed to sea to meet an enemy. Is it not a great advantage that she can go out of harbour in one hour instead of six? There is another advantage in the engines stopping at full speed, and there is also greater control over steam pressure. Then, in action, if damage is done to the boilers, there is much less danger to the stokers, than in the case of cylinder boilers. I might go on pointing out other advantages, but I will confine myself to two other great advantages. In anchoring a ship, or entering harbour, she can be cleaned out in three hours, and be ready for service again. Then, if it is desired to repair or renew a cylinder, it is not necessary to wreck a large part of the ship almost, as was the case with cylinder boilers. It is a comparatively small matter in regard to water-tube boilers. I need not detain the Committee any longer. I cannot congratulate my hon. friend on having built up any argument against the adoption of the water-tube boilers by the Board of Admiralty, and by the other Boards of Admiralty in the world. We are face to face with the fact that after

full inquiry the Marine Department of the United States Government have decided to introduce water-tube boilers in all the ships they are now building, or are going to be built. We must have the very best ships and the very best boilers in those ships, and I am sure the House of Commons will not be content that this country should remain behind in that respect.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN : I beg to withdraw my motion for the reduction of the Vote by £1 000.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

Original question again proposed.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (York) : The hon. Member for Gateshead is no doubt supported by a considerable number of people in the country, who are in a state of some anxiety about these water-tube boilers. And no wonder, when they know that these boilers alone represent two or three millions sterling, and when ships to the value of fifteen or twenty millions sterling are entirely dependent on these boilers. Now, as a naval officer, I have the most complete faith in these boilers. Not many years ago I was Captain of the Dockyard Reserve, and had seventeen torpedo catchers fitted with these boilers under my charge, and not one of them broke down.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN : I never spoke about torpedo catchers. What I objected to was fitting cruisers and battleships with these boilers.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD : It is the same principle whether you have the water-tube boilers in torpedo catchers or in battleships. You get nervous men in every class. I have even seen nervous men in this House. I have no doubt that when you are driving a 230-ton boat, with 6,000 horse-power, 300lbs. pressure of steam, and at 3,000 revolutions, it is enough to upset any man. We have always got to remember what the other people are about. There are nervous men in other navies. We do not want to treat men-of-war as you do merchant steamers. What we want is to get a full head of steam on the shortest possible notice, and that can be done with the water-tube boilers much better and quicker than with the cylindrical boilers. The point I want to press is that it is a very bad

thing for this country if any class in the community has any doubts as to these boilers, for it affects the efficiency of the fleet. It is no use sending one ship across the Atlantic. If she broke down it would be said that our whole fleet would break down. What I propose is this: that my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Admiralty should send across the Atlantic a squadron of six or eight ships. That would be a proper test of the water-tube boilers, and it would relieve the public mind very much.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN : Hear, hear !

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD : My hon. friend referred to accidents. I have been in the service forty years, and during that time one hundred men were killed on board ship through accidents: but during the time that we have had these most difficult and intricate machines, we have only lost one man by boiler accident. These water-tube boilers are a new experiment, and I believe that when the men are properly taught to use them they will be found satisfactory. We cannot allow other nations to adopt these boilers, and our ships to remain without them. I took particular trouble when I was in America recently to consult many of the naval engineers in the American fleet, and I found they were unanimous in favour of the water-tube boilers. The hon. Member spoke about coal consumption. No doubt when we began to use these boilers the consumption of coal was very much larger. It was 2·3 tons per hour; we have now brought it down to 1·5. The first Lord of the Admiralty mentioned that in a man-of-war they would get 126 auxiliary engines. Some captains are cleverer than others in saving steam. Another point which the hon. Member brought forward in regard to minor defects is, I think, very important in these days. Of course we have enormously increased the mechanical power, by engines, pipes, tubes, and so on, of our men-of-war, so as to make them additionally efficient ships. But we have not been able to increase the number of artificers and engineers in our ships. The consequence is that repairs of defects and maintenance, which ought to be conducted on the ship, have now to be done in the dockyard. The result is that the nation really pays a great deal more

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than it ought to pay for repairs and maintenance. I know that the Admiralty have great difficulties, and I am not finding fault with them. I daresay my right hon. friend will agree with me that the bill for repairs and maintenance is increasing enormously every year because the ships' crews do not undertake that which they would and could do if they had the proper number of mechanics on board. I hope that my hon. friend will see his way to the necessity of sending such a squadron as I have suggested across the Atlantic, because I believe it will settle this question of boilers, and reassure the nation as to the efficiency of our fighting ships.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): There has been a slight confusion in this Debate, both in the attack and in the defence. The hon. Member for Gateshead is here to attack water-tube boilers in general, and the Belleville system in particular. The great weight of authority has been in favour of an improved system of boilers, such as all the Foreign Powers have adopted. When the First Lord of the Admiralty answered my hon. friend, he spoke as if all the Foreign Powers had followed our example. Now, what I want to ask is this: Are not the newest ships, with the exception of those of Japan, which are being built by Foreign Powers, being provided with a new English type of boilers, as contrasted with the particular Belleville boilers which we are using in this country? I have seen reports by American and Russian Commissions on this point, and they throw a particular doubt on the particular type of boilers we are using.

MR. PENN (Lewisham): I think it is pretty well recognised that the water-tube boiler has come to stay. The only question is as to what is the best form of water-tube boiler. The two points to be considered are: the endurance of the boiler, and the consumption of coal. So far as we can make out, Sir J. Durston said that the Belleville boiler would last two commissions; but that the life of the small tube boiler was very much shorter. If that be the case, it seems to me that the Belleville boiler has a distinct advantage over the small tube boiler. Only the other day I attended the trial of a cruiser, with 7,000 horse-

power, and small tube boilers. I asked the engineer his opinion, and he said he would go anywhere with the ship. He sent me a note afterwards to say that the "Pactolus" had arrived from Arosa Bay to the Nore, 857 miles, and had done it in thirty-two hours, and that the vessel was perfectly ready to go anywhere. I am perfectly certain that the experience gained would be of very great value. I do not think the water-tube boiler is the extremely tricky and dangerous thing it is frequently made out to be. I am glad to know that the Admiralty have decided that the third-class cruisers, fitted as they are with various types of boiler, are to have a rough-and-tumble trial like the rest of the service; and I am perfectly certain that the experience gained by this experiment will be of the utmost possible value. I am strongly of opinion—I may be wrong, or too hopeful—that we shall come in the future to some combination boiler which will prove effective. I had an interesting conversation the other day with the hon. Member for West Hull, who has not been a friend of the Belleville boiler. He told me he had put into seven or eight of his ships a boiler which was a combination of the water-tube boiler and Babcock and Wilcox boiler; and that he was contemplating putting this form of boiler in his largest American ships. This shows that this boiler is of considerable endurance, and I hope that the trials will be carefully watched. Take a 7,000 horse-power cruiser: the old cylindrical boilers would weigh 400 tons, but the small tube boilers would only weigh 188 tons. The difference is enormous. But if you get a combination such as I suggest, we would have the endurance of the old boiler, and the strategical advantage of the light weight of the water-tube boiler. It would be an interesting experiment if two vessels of exactly the same size and power were sent on a cruise together. They would be subject to the same conditions, and have the same work to do. When they came back we would be able to see what the endurance of the boilers and engines was, what the coal consumption was, and what the general condition of the ship was. These matters would be reported upon, and light would be thrown on these questions. But whatever may happen, I am perfectly certain that a water-tube boiler of some type must be adopted in the service; and I only hope

that the advisers of the Admiralty will select the best type, and that it will come triumphantly out of the ordeal through which it is now passing.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I do not think the Committee is prepared to extend this discussion. The noble Lord the Member for York made the observation a few minutes ago that it is most important that no encouragement should be given to the nervous fears which, it is said, exist in regard to these water-tube boilers. I hope that will be taken to heart by some of those who have used language calculated to excite nervous fears. My hon. friend the Member for Gateshead has withdrawn his motion, and I am not surprised that he did so. He has made these attacks on the Belleville boiler for five sessions, and I should have expected that by this time additional information had come into his possession. The right hon. Gentleman frankly admits that if any new facts had been brought forward showing the danger or unsuitableness of these boilers, the subject might have been referred to a Select Committee or Commission. No information, however, has been laid before the House this evening in addition to what has been before the House during the last five years. I hold in my hand a copy of a pamphlet in regard to this matter. Let me quote a single sentence from that pamphlet, for it undoubtedly tends to increase that feeling of nervousness to which the noble Lord alluded. It condemns the action of the Admiralty in spending so much of our money upon a French system, which it describes as highly unpatriotic and liable to sudden disaster. I ask the Committee whether anything which has been laid before us to-night in the smallest degree justifies the statement made in that pamphlet. There are only two points of detail upon which I should like to put a question to the First Lord of the Admiralty. The First Lord has given a perfectly correct account of the reasons which induce the Admiralty to adopt this innovation on a large scale. We always understood that we were not to be committed to the Belleville or any other type of boilers, and the question I desire to put is whether any other type has been considered by the Admiralty. There is one point made by the hon. Member for Gateshead which appears to me to deserve some attention, and possibly the First

Lord may be able to give an explanation. My hon. friend says that the official surveyor of the Board of Trade thinks so little of the water-tube boilers that when he finds them in the mercantile marine he refuses to give the ships containing them a longer life than three months. From that I take it that the ship must come into dock again at the end of three months, and this is because he has no confidence in water-tube boilers. These facts have been stated and have not been noticed, and I think a fact of that sort is one that might arouse a suspicion which ought to be dispelled. I hope the representative of the Admiralty will be able to say whether the facts alleged are correct or not, and if so, what is the reason why this divergence of opinion exists upon a matter so essentially important to the well-being and safety alike of the mercantile marine and of the Royal Navy.

***MR. DAVID MACIVER** (Liverpool, Kirkdale): I do not think it is possible for the First Lord of the Admiralty or anybody else to name a single instance of a British-owned trading steamer fitted with the Belleville boilers which has been a success. The conditions of cross-Channel service approximate to some of the Admiralty requirements, but none of the vessels engaged in those services are fitted with water-tube boilers. I cannot help thinking also that the experience of such people as the managers of the White Star Line, or of our other great shipping companies, might prove to be just as valuable as that of the Messageries Maritimes. It was quite a new departure for the Admiralty to go to France for mercantile experience. But while I have been speaking in favour of cylindrical boilers for all ordinary purposes, that is quite a different story from what was put forward by the First Lord of the Admiralty in reply to the noble Lord behind me, as to the special circumstances under which the fighting ships of Her Majesty's Navy may have to work. It is really and truly the fact that with the common types of cylindrical boilers in the mercantile service to treat them fairly you must not raise steam too rapidly. I think every member of the Committee, whether in favour or averse to water-tube boilers for ordinary use, will agree with the First Lord of the Admiralty that the conditions under which Her Majesty's fighting ships

Mr. Penn

may have to work, go far as regards such vessels to justify putting in water-tube boilers, which possess special advantages for getting up steam quickly. Possessing as I do some experience in this matter, I feel warranted in saying that I think the Admiralty go too far in adopting water-tube boilers for all purposes, although I do not think there is any reasonable ground for the country being alarmed at what we are doing in this respect, as regards our fighting ships, because other nations are doing the same.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) : I go a little beyond what has been said upon this subject, for I think there is much more blame on the side of the Admiralty than on the side of the hon. Member for Gateshead. I think the hon. Member who has just spoken has a little under-appreciated the extent to which these Belleville boilers are being used in the mercantile marine. The hon. Member for Hull uses the water-tube boilers—though not of the Belleville type—to a large extent on his vessels; and they are also in use on the service between Newhaven and Dieppe, where they have been used very successfully. I think our experience is in favour of water-tube boilers—I do not say of Belleville boilers in particular, because I think there are probably better types of water-tube boilers than the Belleville. I think the Government have also shown that they are of this opinion, because the Admiralty are now trying six or eight different kinds of water-tube boilers. That fact, I think, shows that upon this subject at any rate Her Majesty's Government have an accessible mind in regard to the various kinds of water-tube boilers. Upon this point even the President of the Board of Trade seems to have given way to the Admiralty in reference to water-tube boilers. The business of the First Lord of the Admiralty is to get a good thing and work it; but the business of the President of the Board of Trade seems to be to get a good thing and say it is bad, and his object seems to be to fix the absolutely irreducible minimum of possible existence. With regard to coal consumption, that is a point upon which I am not thoroughly satisfied. I heard my noble friend say that it was possible to manipulate these returns so as to show a smaller consumption.

Then there is another point, and that is as to the very great increase—which I believe is undoubtedly—of smoke production with the water-tube boiler. That is very serious, because it indicates incomplete combustion of fuel. I should very much like the First Lord to be able to reassure us about that matter, because it is very serious on two grounds. It is serious, in the first place, that it should be possible for men-of-war to be followed about and seen by a column of smoke along the horizon, and it is serious in the second place from the point of view of the consumption of coal, because the greater amount of smoke suggests a large increase in the consumption of coal. One point has not been mentioned which ought to be taken into account in considering the merits of the water-tube boiler. I believe that without the water-tube boiler it would have been impossible to increase the speed of the torpedo boat destroyer from 25 to 30 knots. I do not think we should pay the slightest attention to the prejudiced opinion of the President of the Board of Trade and his advisers as to the durability of these boilers. I think there is force in the suggestion which has been made by my hon. friend behind me (Mr. Penn), viz.: that certain of these boilers might be used in combination, and I would join in urging upon the right hon. Gentleman the very great desirability of making a far more extended trial of these boilers than has yet been made.

MR. GOSCHEN : With reference to the remark of my hon. friend behind me (Mr. MacIver) that the Admiralty have gone to France for mercantile experience, I beg to say that that is not the case. What happened was this. The French navy introduced Belleville boilers, and are using them. We could not ask for a passage in a French man-of-war for an officer to study the working of the boilers, and so the Admiralty despatched one of their staff in order to study the working of the boiler on board one of the Messageries steamers. With reference to the question asked by the hon. Gentleman opposite (Mr. Edmund Robertson), we are trying various kinds of boilers, especially the small water-tube boilers. In an article in the *Morning Post* it was stated that the Yarrow boilers are being imported into Russia. We have no information to that

effect. On the contrary, our information is that all the Russian ships now being built are to have Belleville boilers, except one, which is to have Nicklausse boilers. With regard to the small-tube boilers, it is absolutely necessary to be satisfied that the life of boilers of that class would be long enough for use in a large ship before they are adopted. It would, again, be unwise to sacrifice the homogeneity of a ship as regards boilers, as it is of great advantage that a man should be able to go from one stokehold to another without finding that he has a different class of boiler to look after. The Admiralty are not in the least bound to the Belleville boiler, though we are anxious to see what advantages it possesses as compared with other boilers. The Department is also watching with great care the comparative advantages of introducing the small water-tube boiler to a greater extent in the larger ships than has hitherto been the case. It has been suggested that there should be a squadron of ships fitted only with the water-tube boiler, and that there should be two ships of about the same dimensions where the test might be applied of one against the other. It is probable that in the course of time these events may happen, but supposing you were to run two ships in the way suggested, there would not be found anything in the cruise which would afford an opportunity to test the comparative advantages which each ship would have. The distinguishing characteristics would remain—namely, that the water-tube boiler would be able to get up speed quicker than the other, while the strategical advantages of the water-tube boiler would remain also. We are also bound to ascertain what disadvantages would be forthcoming, and these disadvantages might be such as to create an impression against the water-tube boiler. Still, its strategical advantages, for which, after all, the ships are built, are such as to need very strong evidence indeed to justify a new departure. Although the coal consumption is somewhat larger and the difficulties somewhat greater, nevertheless I think we ought to stand by the water-tube boiler. The non-adoption of the water-tube boiler by the mercantile marine makes no impression on me. In the first place merchant ships do not require the strategical advantages which the water-tube boiler gives to the Navy; and with the cylindrical boiler there is no need

for that extreme care and discipline in the stokehold which is one of the requirements of the water-tube boiler. The question of minor defects needs constant and careful watching, and, of course, the Admiralty are paying continuous attention to the subject.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON : The right hon. Gentleman has not said anything as to the divergence in the views of the Board of Trade and the Admiralty on the question of safety.

MR. GOSCHEN : The Board of Trade look upon the matter from a totally different point of view. That Department has not had the same experience generally as to the employment of water-tube boilers, and it is perfectly right, until further information is forthcoming, to take precautions as to safety.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON : I have looked at the Act of Parliament which is the authority for the action of the Board of Trade, and I find they are authorised to give certificates for twelve months, and I am informed that they do give such certificates. The allegation made by the hon. Member for Gateshead was that the granting of the certificate for three months instead of twelve, on account of ships having water-tube boilers, was due to the fact that the Principal Surveyor of the Board of Trade disbelieved in the safety of this class of passenger ship. I am sorry we cannot clear up this matter any further, and I will therefore pass away from it. The other matter I wish to refer to is one that I raised two years ago, and which relates to the unfortunate dispute in the engineering trade which caused so much disturbance in the proceedings of the shipbuilding department of the Admiralty. Without going into details, I may say that early in the struggle I tried to get from the right hon. Gentleman a declaration of what his policy would be in respect of penalties provided for in the form of contract under what is called the strike clause. I wanted him to declare while the strike was still in progress, for the information of all parties, whether the word "strike" would include the "lock out" which was the cause of the disturbance. The right hon. Gentleman did not answer my queries, and down to the beginning of this year I

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had really not been able to ascertain what the view of the Admiralty was—whether they regarded “lock out” as being included in “strike,” or whether, as was once suggested, they had been advised that it was illegal to exact penalties at all. I had to leave the matter there, but I do not think it was a satisfactory position in which to leave it. I believe I was right in my contention that a “lock out” was not included in the terms of the strike clause, and that the penalties were legally enforceable, and that the parties ought to have been told at the beginning what the policy of the Admiralty would be, because it had a very powerful and important bearing on the matter. The Committee of Public Accounts have had this matter recently before them, and I want to call the attention of the Committee to the language that they use. They refer to specific cases which I need not mention in detail, and say :

“The instalments paid to that date amounted to within £33,000 of the full contract price. The penalties already incurred to that date exceeded this issued balance of purchase money. The Admiralty propose to waive the penalties.”

Then they go on to say :

“Your Committee felt themselves called upon last year to observe ‘upon similar illustrations of administrative policy which appear to reduce the penalty clauses of contracts to little more than an empty form of words.’”

That is the declaration in two successive sessions of the Public Accounts Committee. They go on to say :

“Your Committee deem it prudent to withhold for the present any definitive judgment on the matter; but the question is so important (involving as it does not only considerable sums of public money, but also the relations of contractors to a spending Department) that it ought not to be lost sight of in the Reports upon future Appropriation Accounts of the Navy; and in the opinion of your Committee it is desirable that the Comptroller and Auditor-General should be in a position to report fully upon all penalties incurred by, and all penalties waived in favour of, the several contractors.”

That is a very important deliverance on the part of the Public Accounts Committee, and I think I am entitled to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty what line of policy he intends in future to pursue with reference to this question. On this hangs another small question. Some two years ago, shortly after the

commencement of this trade dispute, and when attention had been called to the terms of the strike clause which appeared to exclude lock-outs, the Admiralty set about re-drafting the common form of contract. More than a year and a half ago I asked the Secretary for the Admiralty if he would let me have a copy of the new form of contract. I put that question again three or four weeks ago, but from that time to this I have not been able to obtain from the Admiralty for the satisfaction of the House a copy of the new form of contract, which they have adopted or are about to adopt. Possibly I may be informed now what is the exact stage of that instrument, whether the new form of contract has been settled, and if so, whether the Admiralty will lay a copy before the House. In the same connection perhaps I may call the attention of the Committee to another deliverance of the Public Accounts Committee. In reference to the same state of affairs they referred to the fact that :

“Owing to the dispute in the engineering trade in 1897-98 the contractors for certain hulls of ships were unable to earn payment of the full instalments, such instalments being due only upon the completion of defined portions of work, and they applied to the Admiralty for advances on account. The circumstances appeared to the Admiralty to justify such advances, and upon a total of instalments amounting to £43,645, which would have been payable if the conditions above stated had been fulfilled, sums certified to be within the limit of work actually done were advanced to the amount of £28,450. Although these advances were not legally claimable, no provision was made for charges of interest upon them.”

The Committee appear to have protested against advances being made without having anything charged upon them, and upon this matter also perhaps the Admiralty representatives will be able to tell us what position they intend to take with reference to this deliverance of the Committee on Public Accounts.

COMMANDER BETHELL (Yorkshire, East Riding, Holderness): Although it is perfectly true that of late years there has not been much criticism on the general field of shipbuilding, as to the types of ships, there are one or two questions which seem to me to be of some interest. I quite agree there is not much room for criticism on the general types of ships,

because all the world is practically agreed that certain types must be used for men-of-war. Battleships of certain sizes of different countries are substantially the same. In fact, we may contrast two ships nowadays by their tonnage, which is a great deal more than we used to be able to do. During the last three or four years we have had three new different types of battleships—types, that is to say, the same, but the sizes are different. I should rather like for a minute or two to call the attention of the Committee to the apparently small advantage we get from the very largely increased size of battleships. I take the "Canopus," one of the smallest battleships we make, and contrast it with the "Formidable," which is one of the largest class, and I find that the small ship compares so favourably with the large ship that, except in the matter of armour, in all the great characteristics of fighting ships they are equal. The smaller ship has a slightly superior speed, the same storage of coal, the same ammunition, and the same draught, but the depth of armour is, of course, stronger and thicker and of greater resisting power on the larger ship. Except for that I think there is no advantage. One might also contrast the lighter type of ship in the same way. Owing to modern inventions the armour upon the lighter types is of greater resisting power than formerly was the case, and the real difference between a 14,000-ton ship and a lighter one is much less than it would otherwise have been. This brings up the interesting question which I should like to suggest, viz., whether this difference in thickness, in the resisting power of the armour, is of such importance as to make it worth while so very largely to increase the size of battleships. Obviously, the Admiralty are very naturally uncertain about this, because they have built the class of 13,000 tons, the "Formidable" of 15,000, and have now gone back again to the 14,000. The difference of 2,000 is very considerable in a battleship, and it would be interesting to know whether the Admiralty, after further considering the question, are inclined to think it advisable or not to go on increasing the battleships of these large types. I am not at all sure whether too much may not be sacrificed to very great speed. I believe that view is entertained to a certain extent. I have never been able to satisfy myself that sacrificing much to speed in battleships is

likely to give that advantage which is anticipated over another fleet of somewhat slower speed, but of greater armament—a greater armament than is generally considered to be the case. If I pass from battleships to first-class cruisers, an entirely new question presents itself. We discussed this matter very briefly last year, and I may point out that the question of cruisers has been very largely modified by the fact that the resisting power of armour has been so largely increased. I may remark that the Admiralty while they are building armoured cruisers protected with outside armour of very high resisting power, are also building the same size of ship—what is called the protected ship; that is to say, with protected decks—without any armour at all.

MR. GOSCHEN was understood to dissent.

COMMANDER BETHELL: Well, within 1,000 tons. But the point I should like to suggest is, is it worth while, now that we have got these means of protecting our cruisers, to build "protected" cruisers of approximately the same size as the armoured cruisers, seeing that armoured cruisers have such an immense advantage with such a small additional size and weight? Obviously the two ships are intended to do practically the same work. It is a question of policy to consider whether it is worth while building these two classes of ships to do substantially the same work, when one is so infinitely superior to the other in every characteristic of vessel, whether it be built for battle or for cruising. I am glad to hear that the Admiralty have practically decided not to build vessels of the "Niobe" class in future. I have no special criticism to make either as to the vessels now being built or any suggestion as to the type of the ships in general, but I would ask my right hon. friend whether we are not building a considerable number of small vessels slow of speed for the work now to be done. Looking through the Estimates it does appear to me that we are building rather a large number of very small cruisers which cannot be expected to undertake the duties of vessels which have to keep at sea for long periods. I also desire to point out that it would be a great advan-

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tage if we were given information about armour. We know what guns and armaments our ships carry, but we have no means of knowing what armour is placed on their sides or its nature. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will also be able to tell us that the Admiralty will take into further consideration the question of the size of battleships, which seems to me to be highly important.

MR. C. H. WILSON (Hull, W.): I did not know that my hon. friend the Member for Gateshead intended to make his annual attack on the water-tube boiler so early in the afternoon, or I would have been present. Perhaps it may interest the Committee to hear the experience of my firm in connection with water-tube boilers. It really has been the same as that of the Admiralty. These boilers require more skill and care in their management, though not perhaps to the extent mentioned by the First Lord of the Admiralty. One vessel which we fitted with a water-tube boiler six or seven years ago is still doing the ordinary work of a merchant cargo steamer without any trouble, and has been working very successfully. We thought we would give the Belleville boiler a trial, and we fitted one steamer with it, but I must say it was not successful in any way, and we had to take it out and put back the old boiler. Almost every year since 1895 we have fitted one or more steamers with water-tube boilers, and we should not have done that if the consumption of coal had been excessive. I think the difficulty in connection with these boilers has been solved, for every Government almost without exception engaged in building warships now fits them with water-tube boilers. I think, therefore, that the Admiralty are quite right in the steps they are taking to fit their ships with these boilers. At the same time I believe that experience is teaching them the weak points, as it taught my firm. In a life-long connection with shipping I have found that every improvement in machinery has to go through grades of experience and difficulty. We have had steps forward, from the engine with two cylinders to the compound engine and the triple cylindrical engine, but boilers have made small progress up to the present. My own feeling is that in course of time the

present boiler will be a thing of the past, and that water-tube boilers of some description will come into general use for the benefit of steam navigation. I had an opportunity of having a long conversation with the chief engineer to the Admiralty only last evening, and his view agreed with mine that the Admiralty are perfectly right in the steps they have taken, and that they have no reason to fear criticism. Of course greater care must be taken in the management of a water-tube boiler, as it is as different from an ordinary boiler as a race horse is from a cart horse, but with experience and the discipline of the Navy that ought not to be difficult. I cordially agree with the policy of the Admiralty in this general adoption of the water-tube boiler.

*SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I think we have been too much inclined in this country to sacrifice armament to coal-carrying capacity. As we have coal depots all over the world, and thus differ from all other nations, I am of opinion that the Admiralty would be wise to check the tendency to which I have referred. I rise, however, mainly to ask a question about the reserve merchant cruisers. I wish my right hon. friend would next year place against the name of each vessel on the list given in the estimates the date on which it first received a subsidy. I find at the bottom of the list three vessels which have been receiving a subsidy for twelve years, while several Cunard and P. and O. steamers with every modern requirement are not subsidised at all. The reason why these old steamers are receiving subsidies is that they are the property of the Canadian Pacific Company, and it is supposed that these subsidies improved the relations between our colonies and ourselves. But if we wanted a cruiser in the Pacific tomorrow, we would take a P. and O. steamer from the China side of the Pacific in preference to these twelve-year old steamers which are worn out and non-effective. I hope therefore my right hon. friend will supply us in future with the information for which I now ask. We ought not to continue to pay subsidies to vessels not up to date simply because we once did it to please a large colony.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: On the subject mentioned by my hon.

and gallant friend, perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will be able to tell us what the new arrangement is which he informed us had been entered into with the merchant cruisers. I do not press the right hon. Gentleman, but the information would be of great interest if he were able to give it to us. There is another matter on which, if the time is considered suitable, I think we ought to have some information, and that is with regard to the new armoured cruisers, not only the dockyard, but the contract cruisers also.

SIR ELLIOTT LEES (Birkenhead) : I desire to direct attention to the delay in the delivery of armour plating. Last year we had a short supply, and the First Lord himself drew attention to the subject in Committee. It is lamentable to see ships waiting for months simply because the contractors cannot obtain the necessary quantity of armour plating. I think it would be desirable if the First Lord in his reply would reassure the Committee and the country on this matter.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD : I should like to ask my right hon. friend a few questions on the Shipbuilding Vote. The Americans are now using electricity to a great extent in all their new battleships and cruisers. One of the first things we have to look after is the health of our men, and we ought to reduce the number of steam pipes which cause so much heat on a ship. I do not see why we should not use electricity more than we do for hoists and many other things. I saw an electric engine on the "Wisconsin" which could turn the turret perfectly easily. In all the auxiliary services on that ship electricity is used, and I hope my right hon. friend will be able to inform us that the Admiralty will look into the matter. I should also like to ask if the Admiralty are taking any steps to get rid of the muzzle-loading guns. Another question I would ask is whether orders have been issued that all 6-inch guns are to be made quick-firing guns. I would also like to know whether the Admiralty have reduced the number of watertight doors in the new vessels. I pointed out last year that no ship of any sort that had been hit by a ram or a torpedo had been able to keep afloat as a result of her water-tight doors. I would suggest

that the doors be placed higher up in order to stop the first influx of water, and I believe that the "Victoria" would have been saved if the doors had been fitted in that way. On the financial question I think the Committee and the country imagine that the Admiralty are spending a great deal more on the Navy than they really are. In 1896-7 and 1897-8 the Admiralty made out a programme which allowed 7½ millions to be spent annually on shipbuilding. In 1897-8, through no fault of the Admiralty, there was a deficit of £2,270,000. The First Lord last year stated that he was going to make up £1,400,000, which still left short by £800,000 the amount which the Admiralty concluded ought to be spent in shipbuilding. I ventured to tell the First Lord that he was counting this £1,400,000 in two ways, first by making up the deficit, and secondly by including it in the ordinary shipbuilding Vote of the year. I was called to order and did not pursue that subject, but I still maintain that the First Lord counted that sum twice. After that the House was alarmed at the Russian programme, and when I asked repeated questions on the subject the First Lord said he did not believe the information I submitted.

MR. GOSCHEN : I did not say I did not believe it, but that I had no information on the subject.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD : Of course, I accept my right hon. friend's version, but I told him at the time that I had information, and the Government ought to have, before a private member, information on such a serious matter. Eventually, as the Committee knows, the First Lord admitted that my information was accurate. Then the First Lord proposed an increase of four battleships, four cruisers, and, I think, twelve torpedo-boat destroyers. Now this is the point I wish to make. If the seven and a quarter millions programme, which was based on what foreign countries were doing, had been adhered to in 1896-7 and 1897-8 we would be exactly in the same position as we are now without this two millions, which the First Lord lays down as an extra shipbuilding Vote. We are really not adding anything because of the Russian programme. I think, however,

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our shipbuilding Vote is enough. I think we are going on very well indeed, and that the Admiralty are doing extremely well, but I hold we are not devoting this two millions because of the Russian programme. We are only making up the ground we have lost. The Naval Estimates look large, but after all they are only an insurance on what we have to defend. I should be very much obliged if my right hon. friend would clear up this matter of the Russian programme, and also answer my other questions.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I wish to say a few words in endorsement of what has been just said by the noble Lord with reference to the Russian programme. I think the Admiralty ought to tell us, if they fairly can in the interest of the country, what that programme is. Our programme for the present year is to some extent elastic and depends to a large extent on the Russian programme. We know pretty well the state of things with regard to the Russian contract ships, but we know nothing about the ships being built in the Russian yards. Every private slip in France where a battleship or a cruiser can be built is occupied for Russia at the present time, and Russian ships are also being built in Germany. With regard to cruisers we know something about what is being done in America, but we were informed that five large cruisers and two battleships were to be built in Russia, and whether they are being rapidly proceeded with or not will decide whether there is to be an addition to or subtraction from our programme. I think the First Lord will admit that our programme depends to some extent on the Russian programme, and we cannot vote this money without being told what is in the possession of the Government with reference to the rate of progress of the Russian programme or else being asked to trust the Admiralty on the ground that the national interests are opposed to a statement on that subject. We know that some of the representatives of this country at the Peace Conference are of opinion that it will produce a retardation of the Russian naval programme, and I would ask the Government whether that is the case or not.

MR. GOSCHEN: Nothing has occurred since the Naval Estimates were

introduced to show any change of programme on the part of Russia. The situation is exactly where it was then, and therefore there is nothing to induce Her Majesty's Government to change their programme. We stand precisely where we did, and there has been practically no change. The situation is this. The Russian programme, under what is called the nineteen million roubles vote of credit—that is roughly about nine millions sterling—included eight battleships, and of this number four have been commenced.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: With a view to completion in 1900.

MR. GOSCHEN: I cannot say that. I expect the Russian view of completion is very like our own—it depends very much on a variety of circumstances. The Russian Government have begun these ships, and there is no reason to believe that they are not going to proceed with them in the ordinary way. One of these ships is being built in America, another in France, one at the Baltic works by a private firm, and a fourth ship has also been laid down. These four battleships correspond with the four battleships for which we had authority under the supplementary programme of last year. In reply to my noble friend, I look rather to the shipbuilding programme than to the actual money that has been spent. We are precisely where we intended to be so far as the commencement of ships is concerned. Early in the year it was thought that the French would introduce another battleship which might be begun quite late in the year, but for which they took no money. Therefore at that time there were five battleships pending which we should require to meet. Most of them are, so to speak, still in the air, and it is not contemplated that the French will commence their battleships during the present year. With reference to the four Russian battleships, there is every reason to believe that two will be commenced at St. Petersburg in the course of the present financial year, but the Russians do not tell us in advance whether they are going to build ships or what ships they are going to lay down. Sometimes private information may ooze out and may be communicated to persons in this country, but it is very difficult to get official information. There are slips

available for the commencement of the ironclads I have spoken of, and it is likely they will be commenced. Therefore I am not prepared to recede from the position I took up in April last, but I should be sorry to part from this subject without saying that I see in the Russian programme no menace at all against this country in particular. There is another strong Power in Pacific waters, which is armed very heavily, and I hope the Committee and the country will not misunderstand me when I put these ships against each other. It is our bounden duty, as has been laid down over and over again, to maintain equality with the two greatest naval Powers, and therefore there is no indiscretion in speaking of the preparations of these naval Powers, but in doing so it is not in the slightest degree because we wish to enter upon a race for naval supremacy with other nations. We are simply acting up to the policy that we have acted on during the last few years. We see no menace in what foreign countries are doing, and I hope that they on their side will not see the slightest menace in what is being done in this country. With reference to the question of armour, the manufacturers are making great efforts. They are introducing new machinery, but they have not been able to come up to the standard they themselves hoped for about a year ago, and there has been no doubt a retardation of some of our ships. But we hope and believe that the manufacturers are doing their best to make up for delays in the past, and will produce more satisfactory results in the future. My hon. and gallant friend the Member for Holderness raised an interesting point with reference to the building of cruisers and also of battleships. The "Canopus" class was reduced in armour in order that the ships might have a lighter draught and be able to pass through the Suez Canal. The group of ships of this class will all be able to pass through the canal, and for that purpose we deliberately sacrificed a certain amount of armour. We, however, attach great importance to the thickness of the armour on our battleships, and we have determined that point with reference to the ships to which our ships might be opposed. With reference to the third class in the programme, I am not yet in a position to state the design, but we are giving the greatest possible

attention to the subject. There is some advantage in the delay which has taken place, because there are other Powers who would like very much to know what these third-class cruisers are going to be before they finally embark on their own programme. My hon. and gallant friend also spoke of the degree to which first-class cruisers should or should not be armoured. The "Niobe" class is not armoured, but when a type of armour was discovered which admitted of its being placed in the sides of first class cruisers without imposing too much weight, then it was decided by the Admiralty to armour our first class cruisers. The "Niobe" is a fine class of ship, but I think now we should build no first class cruiser without the protection of armoured sides. My hon. and gallant friend also said we should pause in the construction of small ships, but we must always have a number of small ships to do station and other work.

COMMANDER BETHELL: Am I right in supposing that the size of the first class battleships is governed mainly or solely with reference to the thickness of the armour? In all these last ships there has only been a difference of three or four inches.

MR. GOSCHEN: It is those three or four inches that make just the difference. I can assure my hon. and gallant friend that this matter has been most carefully studied over and over again. It is a matter upon which opinions may differ, but on the whole we have proceeded on the principle that our ships must be built and armoured so as to cope with the great battleships they may have to meet. My hon. and gallant friend the Member for Yarmouth spoke of the merchant cruisers. We are revising the whole of the contracts with those firms whose contracts have expired or are expiring, but the negotiations are still pending, and I am unable at present to make any statement on the subject. With regard to the application of electricity to ships, the Admiralty are certainly giving their best attention to the question. We have now Naval Attachés specially appointed to the United States and Japan, which possess

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navies of great efficiency, ingenuity, and power, and an officer specially competent to deal with electrical subjects will be appointed to the United States, so that he may be able to report on any improvements that may be introduced in that respect. The noble Lord the Member for York wishes that certain ships should be struck off the list now that a number of new ships are getting ready for commission. I myself would prefer to keep on these ships until we have ample new ships to take their place. I think some of the inferior ships might, towards the conclusion of a naval war, play a very important part, if there happened to be many disasters among the finer and better ships. The noble Lord seems to think that these ships are kept on the list in order to impose on the public. That is not the case. They are kept on the list that we may have some reserve, even of a second-class character, until we are able to dispense with them altogether. With reference to water-tight doors, I am not able to argue with my noble friend. I know there has been great controversy in regard to the matter, but the Admiralty authorities believe that they have answered all the arguments of the noble Lord. As to quick-firing guns, that is a technical question, and I must ask the noble Lord to repeat his question another time. I may, however, state generally, that the policy of the Admiralty is to turn all guns capable of conversion into quick-firers, and we have done a great deal in that direction. In some of the ships on the China Station we have taken out guns of low calibre and put in guns of larger calibre.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): The hon. Member for Dundee asked what the policy of the Admiralty would be in relation to the enforcement of penalties. The hon. Gentleman cannot, I think, plead successfully that he is in such ignorance in regard to one material fact. We stated last year in the Committee of Naval Estimates that we had been advised that the interpretation of the penalty clause included a lock-out in the same way as a strike. And if the hon. Gentleman would turn to the report of last year's debate he will find that my right hon. friend the Attorney-General confirmed that opinion. The hon. Gentle-

man also asked me whether I can state now what our policy has been in relation to the engineering strike.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: What I asked was the general principle of the Admiralty in dealing with penalties.

*MR. MACARTNEY: I cannot state how the Admiralty may deal with individual cases which may come up under the penalty clause. Every case will be considered on its merits, and I cannot go any further than that.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: This is serious. The policy appears to be to reduce the penalty clause to an empty form.

*MR. MACARTNEY: All I can say is, whether the policy goes as far as the hon. Gentleman says, it is precisely the policy carried out by all previous administrations at the Admiralty. If the hon. Gentleman doubts that, I can show him that when he was at the Admiralty cases were treated exactly as they are now. There has been no new departure. I think if he makes inquiry he will see that the Committee on Public Accounts themselves have suspended judgment in the matter.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Except in one case.

*MR. MACARTNEY: I regret I am not in a position to give a more satisfactory answer in regard to the new form of contract than I gave the other day. It was only the other day that the revised form of contract was before the Board of Admiralty, and a contract like this cannot be dealt with in a hurry. My hon. friend knows that those who are advising us on this matter have been much engaged on other questions of great importance, and we have not been able to command their attention continuously, but every effort will be made to come to a decision soon. As to whether we were technically right in the specific case to which the hon. Gentleman alludes, it is not necessary for me to detain the Committee. The whole question is before the Admiralty, and I

have no doubt that we will concur in what the Treasury lays down in the future. It would have been inequitable in the special case if we had not agreed to waive the payment of interest.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. £3,799,000, Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.—Matériel.

3. £2,417,000, Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.—Personnel.

MR. E. J. C. MORTON (Devonport) : I want to say a few words on a matter that comes under this Vote—namely, the classification amongst the larger trades in the dockyard. I know that this question has been brought up year after year, and I am entitled to point to this fact that year after year the question becomes riper for settlement. These men complained eight years ago of the introduction of a system by which men doing identically the same work are receiving different rates of pay. As the prosperity of the country increases and the national income increases, it ought to become easier for the Government to remedy this grievance. I am informed that while the slight increase of wages of the men necessary to bring them all under the highest rate of pay has not been conceded, an increase of expenditure has been incurred, entirely unnecessarily, by the appointment of more officers to take the place of inspectors. As long as expense of that kind is incurred it seems to me that we have a stronger case to ask that the classification should be abolished.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) : I wish to ask a question of my hon. friend in regard to the scheme introduced of the payment of apprentices in the yard who are ultimately intended to be shipwrights. I understand that the scheme was introduced at the commencement of the year owing to the inability of the Admiralty to get men to join as in years gone by. I understand that 150 entries were invited. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will say : How many out of the 150 applicants were taken on ? I am informed that the scheme has been a failure. It is necessary that skilled workmen should be in the yards from seven years to fourteen. As regards the point my hon. friend has raised about classification, I agree with him that the matter is one which ought to be settled. It does not require a very

large sum to settle it, and it still remains, as it has been for years, a great point of dissatisfaction among the men. It seriously affects the well-being of the Navy, because it prevents so many skilled men joining the naval service who otherwise would do. Naturally they object to going to do work side by side with men who are getting an inferior rate of pay. The tendency of all this is that inferior men are being taken into the Government service, and these inferior men have been entered as skilled workmen. There is the case of a man at Devonport who was taken on as a skilled workman, who had previously been a mason's labourer, a coal porter, and prior to that a deck hand on a dredger. It is well that this kind of thing should be set right. This man had never worked as a shipwright at all before, and a protest was raised by the trade, but it received no consideration, and has been of no avail. Hon. Members who represent naval constituencies about the country will agree, I think, with me when I say that the Government have no right to introduce inferior workmen simply because they cannot get the best skilled men in consequence of their system and their low rate of pay. I will give another case where the Government have acted in a manner which cannot be in accord with the general treatment of employers of labour. I am told that they have opened their door to runaway apprentices, and recently they took a young man who was bound to a trade for a period of seven years. At the end of five years' service he left his employer, and presented himself to the chief instructor at Devonport. His qualifications were found satisfactory and he was taken on, and when his master found out where he had gone he made the strongest representations he could to the chief instructor, but the Admiralty simply replied that the man was fully qualified and that they meant to stick to him. I think it is a very dangerous thing to encourage young fellows to leave their employment in this way. The Government, through their system of classification and pay, are not encouraging the right sort of men to come into their dockyards. I know they can pick the very best labour in the country if they will only make their conditions satisfactory. There is one class of labour which I think ought to be considered, and that is the lowest paid class of labour. To-day it does

Mr. Macartney.

seem a poor wage for a labourer to get 18s. or 19s. a week. I will not go into the details, because my hon. colleague has mentioned them upon many occasions. I would, however, like to refer to a remark made by the First Lord of the Admiralty a few months ago. He pointed out that even supposing he was disposed to increase the wages of these labourers the money would not reach them, but it would go into the pockets of the landlords. All I can say is that I do not think this is a fair way to meet the question. What I say is that these men are underpaid, and the Admiralty really ought to sift the matter with a view of treating the men on a better footing. I do not wish to delay the Committee, but this is the first time for seven years that the Naval Vote has been restricted to less than an hour's discussion, for we have always had at least one evening for the discussion of this important Vote. I think we are entitled to express our dissatisfaction with the policy of the First Lord of the Treasury in this direction, and I hope this will not form a precedent to be repeated next year. At all events, I hope that Vote 8, which affects dockyard labour, will not be brought in at the end of the discussion when we shall have no opportunity of adequately expressing our views upon it.

SIR J. BAKER (Portsmouth) : In reference to the circular recently issued by the Admiralty, there are one or two points to which I should like to call the attention of the Committee relating to a deserving class of men, more particularly the chargemen, who have been promoted to inspectors. The statement made in the circular is that the leading men, who naturally had expectations of promotion, in the future are to be abolished. For some years now these leading men have been looking forward to promotion. As my hon. friend has said, the Admiralty seemed disposed to increase the expenditure on superior officers and to decrease it in reference to the subordinate officers by abolishing the leading men, and thus they are striking a blow at the expectations of these men, and they are disappointing a very important class of workmen who have for many years been waiting for a readjustment and reorganisation of the work in their particular sphere. From the information which I have received, I have no doubt whatever that the circular just issued will create among the shipwrights generally a large amount

of dissatisfaction and disappointment. I am aware that in other trades the leading men are fewer in number. With regard to the other important class of workmen I agree with the hon. Member for Devonport in saying that the Admiralty are guilty of a very serious omission in not doing something for the labourers employed in the various dockyards. The War Department within the last year or two have given a slight increase in the soldier's pay, and in view of that fact I think it is very hard that the Admiralty should issue a circular of this kind, which affects many thousands of workmen. I would like to ask if the Committee considers that 18s. a week is sufficient for a labourer. I believe the Government employ between 8,000 and 10,000 of these labourers, and they are employed at a wage upon which they cannot live, although rents are constantly increasing. Why should the Government issue a circular stating that the wages paid to the labourers are in accordance with the current wages generally paid, when such a statement is not in accordance with the facts ? The average wages for a labourer are between £1 and 24s. a week. We urge upon the Government the necessity of doing something for these men, instead of confining their generosity to the superior officers. These men have been entirely forgotten and overlooked year after year, and they are not able to live comfortably on 18s. a week. I fully endorse the remarks which were made in regard to the very short time allowed us to urge upon the Admiralty the various grievances in connection with our constituencies, and this will compel us to take other opportunities of making our views known to the proper authorities.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE (Rochester) : With reference to the compensation given to workmen under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1897, I want to know if my hon. friend can give us any information as to whether there has been any difficulty in administering the Act in regard to the workmen employed in the dockyards, and what procedure has been adopted in cases of dispute as to the amount of compensation.

*MR. BARNES (Kent, Faversham) wished to mention a question he was entitled to raise on this Vote, and one affecting the interests of all classes of dockyard employees. That was the question of pensions and deferred pay.

Under the existing regulations an established man obtained a pension on reaching 60 years of age, and that pension was calculated on the basis of one-sixtieth of the man's pay for every year of his service as an established man. But the men really looked upon this pension in the light of deferred pay, a weekly sum having been deducted by the Government from their wages. He drew attention to the fact that if a man died before 60 years of age his widow and children got nothing at all, although this weekly deduction had been made from his wages. He acknowledged the immense boon conferred by the present Government in allowing half hired time to count for pensions, and hoped that the Admiralty would give serious consideration to the question he had raised, which was one of great importance to the families of those employed in Her Majesty's Dockyards.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I think it will be more convenient for me to deal now with the various matters which have been raised in this discussion. The question of classification has been mentioned by the two hon. Members for Devonport, and I can only say in reply that the question has been considered most carefully by the Admiralty, for we went into the matter most fully, and the decision we then came to must be taken as final. As regards the question of pensions and deferred pay the hon. Member who has raised this question must remember that the cost of the present system to the country is very much greater than the contributions or deductions which are made from the wages of the men. It is perfectly true that those workmen who do not live to earn a pension get back nothing for the deductions made from their wages, but still the total deductions made from the wages of workmen in the yard are not equal to the total amount returned in the form of pensions to members of the same class. As regards the question of classification, I think I explained that matter to the House very fully upon a previous occasion. In order to find a fair rate of pay the Admiralty took the mean between the lowest and the highest on the graduated scale, and in this respect our generosity appears to have been mistaken, for the complaint now made is entirely founded upon our generosity to the higher class. Surely, because the Ad-

miralty were too generous in the case of the men promoted to the higher ratings, it would not be considered proper to reduce those men, and we ought not on that account to raise the rate of everybody throughout the yard. The senior Member for Devonport addressed to me some question in regard to the entry of apprentices for the service under the new scheme. I cannot give him any figures now upon that subject, or any very definite information. I think probably that when we have had a little more experience of the new system that will be a better time to see how the scheme promises to work. As far as my information goes, up to the present there is every reason to suppose that we shall get as many apprentices as we want. At some of our yards we have not been able to get as many as were required, but other yards have provided more than the required number.

MR. KEARLEY: Which yards?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am sorry that I cannot say off-hand in which yards there has been an excess. The hon. Member opposite complains of the general character of the workmen engaged in our dockyards. I must repudiate as strongly as I can his suggestion that we are largely entering inferior workmen in our yards, or that the general standard of work and skill is not as high as it is anywhere else.

MR. KEARLEY: I made no such statement. What I said was that the Admiralty were employing inferior men, and I quoted two cases. I hope the hon. Gentleman will confine himself to those two cases.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member has forgotten what he did say. He cited two cases, one of which he gave in detail, and he made a general charge that the character of the men we were getting was not satisfactory. I think I can recall what his argument was. I should like to ask why he came to speak on the question at all. He was speaking on the subject of classification, and our refusal to accede to the demand he had made, and he said the result was that we did not attract the right men, and we were obliged to take on inferior men.

MR. KEARLEY: I want to make my point perfectly clear. I said that this was the tendency, and I supported my point by two illustrations showing that you

were not getting the best labour in the country. I gave two illustrations which I can elaborate into as much detail as the hon. Gentleman wishes to have.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : The hon. Member says that the tendency is that we cannot get the best men, and I presume that what he means is that under those circumstances we are not getting the best men, and that the men we are getting are inferior to the general level of workmen throughout the country. I deny that assertion, for I believe we are getting a perfectly well-trained set of men in our dockyards. In regard to the cases which the hon. Member has quoted, if he will supply me, in a letter, with the full statements of the facts, I will make inquiries into them. As to the case of the runaway apprentice to which he has alluded, I do know something of the facts. This man who has been described as a runaway apprentice came to the dockyard and applied for entry at Land's End. He was fully up to the standard required, and was accordingly entered. It subsequently transpired that he had made an agreement to serve for an extra term with an employer, but that agreement was not a binding agreement which the employer could enforce by law, and it was one which he could not compel this workman to carry out. There are two other questions, and one is the question raised in regard to classification of inspectors, leading men, and chargemen. It will be within the recollection of the Committee and Members interested in the matter that for some time past there has been great complaint in regard to this subject, and an inquiry has been instituted by the Admiralty to see what arrangements could be made to simplify the present complicated position, and to remove some of the grievances of which these officers complain. The grievance has been exactly that which the hon. Member for Devonport put in regard to the existing classification, which is that officers performing the same work were paid different rates of pay. The Admiralty have now framed a scheme which will gradually eliminate the class of leading men, and cause inspectors to be appointed from other trades besides the shipwrights, and this will place them in a position superior to that of the chargemen. At the same time the position of the chargemen will be slightly altered, and I think they will find that they will receive some

benefit under this new scheme. A good many of the leading men will be promoted to inspectors, but the positions of others will be gradually allowed to die out. I think the hon. Member will find that this new system, when it has had a fair trial, will meet to a very large extent the grievances of which his constituency complains. As regards the other question of the rate of wages paid to labourers, I may say that I have nothing to add to the statement which was made by the First Lord of the Admiralty and other Members of the Admiralty Board on a previous occasion. We have made careful inquiries into the whole rates of wages paid in dockyards elsewhere, and, taking a general view of the whole case, we see no reason whatever to alter our scale of pay except in one or two specific instances which have been mentioned in our reply to the dockyard petition. The information placed before us does not justify any general rise in the rate of wages throughout the whole of the dockyards. The noble Lord the Member for Rochester asked me a question about compensation, and as to the procedure that would be followed. Up to the present we have had to deal with some accidents since the passing of that Act, and they have been dealt with, I am happy to say, without any dispute arising between the injured man and the Government pending the arrangement of a scheme of contracting out, which has already been submitted to the Registrar of Friendly Societies; he, I believe, has now certified the scheme, and in a very short time it will be sent down to the dockyards. We first gave the dockyard people an opportunity of expressing their opinion upon it, and it will be for the men to say whether they will come under the scheme or not. If they do not accept the scheme—which scheme I think will be to their benefit—they will come under the ordinary Compensation Act, and will receive no exceptional treatment.

MR. E. J. C. MORTON : I do not think that the two cases which have been quoted can be held to support such a general statement as that which has been made by the senior Member for Devonport, that the tendency was to employ an inferior class of men. I think the hon. Gentleman has entirely left out of account the far more important part of the case to which my hon. friend alluded when he

was referring to shipwright apprentices in the dockyard. A new lot of apprentices were taken in to supply the vacancies when the Admiralty were in a great difficulty. We have been for the last six or seven years pointing out the special grievances of which the naval shipwrights complain. It was absolutely notorious that the Admiralty could not get enough shipwrights, and they confessed that they could not get enough, for they had to start an entirely new system of applying for boys who should, after a period of apprenticeship in the dockyards, pledge themselves to become naval shipwrights. The point was that the period of apprenticeship and the conditions under which the boys were to be educated implied a distinctly lower standard of education, and therefore would ultimately supply a lower class of article, so to speak, in the shape of naval shipwrights than the class which the Admiralty asked for and could not get. Our point is that by lowering the standard you are not only injuring the trade, but you are getting a class of article for the Navy which is inferior to what you otherwise would have had and which you ought to have had. Our complaint is that you have lowered the standard of one particular class of workmen, and not that the general body of workmen in the dockyard has deteriorated. I have been informed that the Admiralty wanted forty-one of these boys to join, and they only got fourteen, and so far as I understand, other dockyards are in a similar condition. If that is so, you cannot only not get the class of men you asked for previously, but you cannot even get the class of men which you were getting, which proves that the only way in which you can get an efficient class in sufficient numbers is by turning your attention to the specific grievances of which the shipwrights complain.

MR. GOSCHEN : Might I ask that we might now have this Vote as soon as possible, because there is a discussion to come on upon Vote 12, when I understand an hon. and gallant Member is going to move a reduction of my salary? I do not complain of the length of the discussion in any way, but it occurs to me that it would be an advantage to the House if we passed to the discussion upon Vote 12.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside) : After the reply we have had from

Mr. E. J. C. Morton.

the Civil Lord I cannot help thinking that both the skilled and unskilled labourers have grave grounds for doubting the sympathetic attitude of the Admiralty. I am not an enthusiastic supporter of any addition to the Navy, but when we have a Navy it ought to be as perfect as possible, and the only way to have that is to keep up the high standard of excellence of craftsmanship which we had in the past. The Civil Lord could only identify one case where it was sought to lower the standard of the skilled labourer, and perhaps it was as well, because that broke down. We cannot expect the hon. Gentleman to understand the industrial conditions, but I would urge the Admiralty to keep up the standard of craftsmanship, and obviously that cannot be done by reducing the number of years of apprenticeship, as is now proposed. The reason that the Admiralty have failed to get skilled shipwrights is not because they do not exist. Private firms have no difficulty in getting the most highly skilled artisans who are prepared to serve them well. There is one point I am utterly unable to understand with regard to the Navy, and that is the meagre wages paid to unskilled labourers. Why does not the hon. Member for the Eastbourne Division of Sussex, who is such an enthusiast, point out that if you neglect to give a wage which will permit a man to live decently—

ADMIRAL FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne) : I have never spoken on the question.

MR. MADDISON : That is just my complaint—the hon. and gallant Gentleman ought to speak. Let me ask the Civil Lord whether he thinks a labourer with 18s. a week in a dockyard town can keep himself decently. The Civil Lord said that what the First Lord of the Admiralty had said upon the subject was the last word. I can only say, of all the Ministers who have shown no indication of the principles we are raising, the First Lord is the one. These very labourers when employed by private yards which have to compete with the Government yards are paid 4s., 5s., and 6s. a week more than they are by the Admiralty. We are face to face with the fact that in our national shipbuilding and repairing yards we are employing men at what would be universally regarded as a sweating wage.

Vote agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £261,600, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the expenses of the Admiralty Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1900."

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : I desire to say a few words upon a subject which I have frequently brought to the attention of the Committee and the Admiralty Office. During the last three or four years I have raised this question of the great injustice done to Roman Catholic clergy in Her Majesty's Navy. Four years ago it was admitted that fifteen years before a promise had been given that this matter should be looked into, and that justice would be done. A year ago the First Lord gave a very sympathetic answer, and promised that the matter should be settled. Since then I believe that negotiations have been entered into, and something has been done; but, for my part, I am not satisfied with the change that has been made. What I complain of is that the Roman Catholic chaplains in the Navy—

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That question ought to be raised on the Vote for the Chaplains.

MR. DILLON : On a point of order, Sir, I have had some experience in this matter, for I raised it on the Vote for the Chaplains on a previous occasion, and I was then told it would be better raised on the question of the Admiralty Office, and I raised it on this Vote and it was debated on this Vote. I would here direct your attention to a remarkable fact that, in the index to the Votes, the Vote for the Chaplains is scattered over a great many Votes. There is no specific Vote for chaplains upon which this point could be raised. My point is not a question of a grievance of the chaplains on the establishment, but quite a different point.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I remember the question being raised on a previous occasion, but I am sorry to say my memory does not carry me back, but I give the hon. Gentleman the benefit of the doubt, as I see that "Chaplains" in the index is not in any particular Vote, but in various Votes.

MR. DILLON : Thank you, Sir. I shall be very brief. There are a hundred chaplains on the establishment who have the status and pay of officers, and I first of all wish to ask whether any of those chaplains are Roman Catholics. There are 10,000 Catholic seamen afloat in the Navy at least, and there may be many more now that it has been so much increased. After a good deal of agitation, the Catholic chaplains in the Army were put upon the same status as those of the Established Church, and I have heard no complaint arising out of that. That being so, I want to know on what kind of logic you deny that status to the Catholic clergy in the Navy. I will give one instance of the hardship to which I refer in the case of a Catholic priest whom I know. He is a priest belonging to the Capuchin Order, and with the consent and kind encouragement of the captains of Her Majesty's ships from time to time, this poor Catholic priest had been invited to officiate on board different men-of-war. He did so. Through some error on the part of the naval officers no allowance was made, not even the small allowance which is permitted to be made for this purpose, and year after year this poor priest, out of the moneys of his Order, for of course he has no means himself, has had to pay the expenses of the boat hire to take him on board. Although he has letters from various captains thanking him for his services, he has, so far as my information goes, received nothing in return.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : It would appear that some payments have been made on behalf of this priest. Sums of money were sent to the vice-consul, but they do not appear to have come to the priest. It was paid by the vice-consul to a person who applied on the priest's behalf, but who has disappeared and whom we are now endeavouring to trace. I may say that I believe the priest is not anxious to have this matter ventilated, but we think it is our duty to find out who the person is who took that money.

MR. DILLON : After that explanation I will not say another word upon it. But that is not the way in which the Catholic seamen ought to be treated, and means ought to be taken for the especial benefit of these men, so far as circumstances will

permit, and the Catholic chaplain ought to be put on the same status as the other chaplains of the fleet.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY : There is one very important question with regard to the engineering officers to which I desire to refer.

*THE CHAIRMAN : I had some doubts as to the last question raised. I have no doubt as to this. This ought to be raised on Vote I.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY : Upon a point of order, may I point out that the question raised by the hon. Member for East Mayo was allowed on a question of general policy, on the ground that it had been included in several Votes ; but if this question which I raise has only been put into one Vote, it is surely none the less a question of policy.

*THE CHAIRMAN : I had some doubt in the case of the hon. Member for East Mayo, because the index in that case was not clear, but I am quite certain with regard to this case that the question ought to have been raised on Vote I. It was raised on Vote I. at an earlier period of the session, and, therefore, clearly cannot be raised again on a different Vote.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY : If you are still of opinion that that is so, of course, Sir, I must bow to your ruling.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD : On a point of order, I understood, Sir, there are certain points which could be described as grievances, and could be raised on this Vote. If that is not so, I wish to point out to the Committee that there are these grievances, and they ought to be brought out.

*THE CHAIRMAN : Order, order ! The noble Lord is not now addressing himself to the point of order before me. All I have ruled is that the Vote for the Board of Admiralty is not the proper place to raise the question.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD : But it was certainly understood that we should be allowed to raise this question—that an opportunity would be afforded.

*THE CHAIRMAN : Even if there were such an understanding it could not bind the Committee, and certainly would not bind me. I cannot set aside the rules of

Mr. Dillon.

order because hon. Gentlemen enter into an arrangement. My duty is to observe the rules of order.

*ADMIRAL FIELD : I will not detain the Committee long, and although I move the reduction of the salary of the First Lord of the Admiralty, of course I know it cannot take place, and only do so to call attention to a matter of great importance to which I also called attention ten days ago, and that is to the disastrous explosion which took place a short time ago at Toulon and the policy of the Admiralty in the face of such disasters in erecting new stores into which they propose to put high explosives, among others cordite. I asked a question as to this of the First Lord, and the answer he gave was not satisfactory. He gave no information at all, and public opinion was very much exercised upon this question, and I venture to say I am only fulfilling a duty when I press the right hon. Gentleman to give the country and this House more information than he gave me in answer to my question. Not one naval officer whom I have consulted outside the Admiralty is a supporter of this policy of their Lordships, and the hon. Member for King's Lynn ventured to put a supplementary question to the question to which I alluded, in reply to which he got no information whatever, but was merely asked to have confidence in the Admiralty. Of course we have all got confidence in the Admiralty, but it is not a question of that kind : it is a question in which the unofficial Members of this House have as much right to an opinion as the Lord of the Admiralty. It is a question of the safety of the dockyard and of the huge population in the neighbourhood that we have to consider in connection with this new departure. I asked for the opinion of the Committee ; I could get no information, but I know that they were not unanimous. From the silence of the First Lord I also draw my own conclusions as to the opinion of the naval officers.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY : May I ask whether my hon. friend is in order in bringing forward the question of the storage of explosives in dockyards on this Vote ?

*THE CHAIRMAN : I am inclined to agree with the hon. Member that the question ought not to be raised at this

stage. The point raised by the hon. Member for Eastbourne ought to be discussed on the naval armament stores or building Votes.

*ADMIRAL FIELD: On the point of order, the new departure had not been taken then. The Toulon explosion is my justification for raising the subject, and if I had been Member for Portsmouth—I make no reflection on the present Members—I would have moved the adjournment of the House on the subject.

MR. CLOUGH (Portsmouth): The hon. Member has no mandate from Portsmouth to raise this question.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. and gallant Member is not entitled to raise the question on this Vote.

Mr. CLOUGH: I should like to hear your ruling, Mr. Chairman, upon the question whether the Greenwich Age Pension Fund may be raised on this Vote. In asking for your ruling I wish to say that when the Pensions Vote was raised in the House it was very late in the evening, and the Admiralty were very anxious to get the Votes which were before the House on that evening. I saw the Civil Lord, and said, "I must raise the question of the Greenwich Age Pensions now unless you can assure me that it may be raised on some other Vote." The Civil Lord most courteously met me. He went to the First Lord, and he and the First Lord stated it might be raised on their salaries by way of a motion for the reduction of the Vote. In view of your ruling this evening, I wish to ask whether, that arrangement having been made—and I believe there is a perfectly honourable desire on the part of the Civil Lord and the First Lord that it should be carried out—I might not raise that topic upon the Vote now under discussion.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I cannot make any exception. It is clear that if we once begin to discuss Votes in their wrong places there will be no end to the discussion on the Naval Votes. It would be impossible for hon. Members to know what subjects would be raised, and what would not be raised. I am sorry that the hon. Gentleman has been led to believe that he could discuss that matter on this Vote, but I, as responsible for the rules of order, can be no party to it, and I shall be obliged to rule it out of order.

MR. CLOUGH: May I be allowed to say, with due deference, that I could understand your ruling where two private Members of the House enter into an agreement one with the other; that is something not within your cognisance, and ought not to influence your ruling; but when an arrangement is made with a responsible Minister like the First Lord of the Admiralty, I hold that I have just ground to ask you to make an exception to your ruling.

MR. E. J. C. MORTON: On a point of order, may we not, by special agreement, discuss certain questions on Votes which we have not immediately to deal with?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think a special agreement made with even so important a person as the First Lord of the Admiralty can possibly upset the rules of order.

SIR CHARLES DILKE desired to draw attention to the reception by the First Lord of the Admiralty and the President of the Board of Trade of a deputation with regard to the manning of the Navy. The First Lord had practically invited the discussion of the subject by the public at large, stating last year that he would be prepared to increase the strength of the Naval Reserve. His reception of the deputation, however, was inconsistent with what he had said in the House, and scarcely encouraging to those in the country who had given time and attention to the question.

*SIR J. COLOMB: I wish to make a few observations upon this Vote. In the first place, I hope the First Lord will have no hesitation in coming to the House and asking for more money in order to make the Naval Intelligence Department more efficient. I find, for instance, there is an expenditure of over £9,000 a year for military attachés, and an increase this year of £2,400, which is more than the total paid for naval attachés altogether. My right hon. friend has spoken of the instruction of naval officers in sea strategy, but there is also the question of tactics. Senior captains of a fleet are never called upon to handle the fleet, nor are commanders ever called upon to handle ships in fleet and squadron evolutions. It appears to me that the Admiralty have no test of the fitness of captains to be admirals, and when, moreover, we come to look at the enormous responsibility

which may be cast on senior captains suddenly in war, I think there should be some system by which they might have the opportunity of handling squadrons and ships occasionally in manœuvres. The other point to which I wish to refer has reference to artillery practice of fleets. In the prize-firing returns I find that there is no mention of the light quick-firing guns. I should like to know whether these guns are left out altogether or included under machine guns. Then I see that there are no prizes awarded for heavier guns than the 13·5 guns. Is that because no prizes have been offered, or is it because the shooting is not good enough? Passing to the next size guns, namely, 13·5 and 12in., I see blue-jacket gunners only competed. Why are the marine artillery gunners out of it? In competition at these two guns I see that the prize-money return is under 36s. per crew. Next in order comes the 10in. gun. Here there was competition between the blue-jacket gunners and the marine artillery gunners, and I find the blue-jacket gunners only won £1 14s. 2d. per crew, while the marine artillery won two guineas. Coming to the 9·2 gun, I find that the blue-jackets only won £1 13s. 10d. per crew, while the marine artillery won £4 12s. 6d. Then, if you take the 6in. gun you will find the blue-jacket gunners won only 15s. 7d. per crew, and the marine artillery gunners £1 6s. 3d. The importance of these figures is contained in the fact that the return shows, even in its incomplete form, that at all heavy guns where there was competition between the blue-jacket gunner and the marine artillery gunner, the latter beat the former and proved themselves the best gunners. If this prize-firing be any test of artillery efficiency, it goes to show that the fire of a fleet, the guns of which are manned by marine artillery gunners, would be more effective than if the guns were manned by blue-jacket gunners. If the prize-firing be no test of relative artillery efficiency, why waste money on it? But it is, and therefore I must press my right hon. friend for a specific answer to this specific question. As the prize-firing test shows that marine gunners win more money than blue-jacket gunners, why is the Admiralty excluding them from manning any gun larger than the 10in. gun? If a particular class of man, trained in a particular way, produces the best results at the 10-inch or the 9·2

gun, why do the Admiralty rule that this particular class of man trained in this particular way shall not even be tried at the 12 or 13·5 gun? Again, this return shows that some 27 per cent. of marine artillery of the Fleet are not quartered at any gun at all. How is that? The facts I give are emphasised when we remember that the form of the return is misleading. In many ships no marine artillery are carried. In these ships blue-jacket gunners compete only against each other. The return lumps together all ships, whether they carry marine artillery or whether they do not. It does not show results of competitions between an equal number of blue-jacket gunners and of marine artillery gunners, but between a few marine gunners in a few ships against the pick of the whole number of blue-jacket gunners afloat. I trust the First Lord will promise that an annual return of prize-firing, in a better form, shall be laid before Parliament. The question of sea supremacy is largely a question of sufficiency and efficiency of heavy gun fire, and without such annual return in a comprehensive and comprehensible form Parliament is in the dark. So far as the present return goes it shows that the naval changes of ninety-five years justify and corroborate the opinion of Nelson, with his matchless experience of naval war, that the duties of blue-jackets are so manifold and various that for the artillery service of the Fleet a special and distinct corps of artillery is needed. The marine artillery came into being in 1804. It was Nelson's creation, but this return shows how far from that view the Admiralty have drifted by excluding the corps from duties it was intended to fulfil, though, as shown by this return, the artillery service of the fleet would be more effective were Nelson's teachings adhered to.

MR. GOSCHEN: I will endeavour to meet the views of my hon. and gallant friend with regard to the return he has mentioned. The right hon. Gentleman opposite spoke of the deputation received by my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade and myself on the subject of the manning of the Fleet, and I gather that the right hon. Gentleman was not satisfied with the manner in which the deputation was received. I may say that I was not at all satisfied with the composition of the deputation. I had been led to expect a number of

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gentlemen representative of the shipping interest with whom we might have had an interesting discussion as to their views on the Reserves. If my memory is not mistaken, all the representatives of the shipping trade were conspicuous by their absence ; those who were present were simply members of the intelligent public who take a considerable interest in the general question, but they are not a body with whom the Government can expect to discuss such very important questions as the Reserves. I regret that I should have left an impression of courtesy on the deputation. I fully recognise the importance of the subject, and therefore regret that the deputation was not more representative.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) : I rise for the purpose of calling the attention of the First Lord of the Admiralty to the unsatisfactory position of the shipwrights in Her Majesty's Navy. At the present time boilermakers, coopers, smiths, and all other mechanics on entering the Navy commence at a minimum wage of five and sixpence a day.

***THE CHAIRMAN** : Order, order ! The question the hon. Gentleman desires to raise should be raised on Vote 1.

MR. STEADMAN : I bow to your ruling, Sir. I was given to understand that I could only raise this question on Vote 12 ; but in future I shall consult you, Sir, and then I shall know whether I am in order or not.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) : I desire to direct attention to a matter of general policy with regard to the Navy which I mentioned before, but regarding which I have not received a satisfactory answer. It is as to making the Navy better known in manufacturing districts, one of which I represent. I think the Admiralty does not recognise the alteration which has taken place in the manning of ships. In the old days all that was required was that a man should be able to dance a hornpipe, hoist a sail, and hitch up his trousers, but the Navy now requires a different kind of man altogether—it requires an engineer and a mechanic. Formerly recruiting for the Navy was chiefly confined to the ports, the population of which were accustomed to seafaring habits, but now I venture to think that the centre of gravity is changed.

The noble Lord the Member for York called attention to the fact that ships have very often to go into port to be fitted because they have not a sufficient supply of engineers and mechanics on board capable of keeping them in order. One fact is very well known, and that is the wonderful hereditariness of habit. In seafaring places people inherited a love of the sea, but ships are now completely altered. They are complicated conglomerations of intricate machinery, and the corollary to that fact is that we require as recruits engineers and mechanics. It is more important for a man in the Navy nowadays that he should have inherited, not a capacity for the sea, but for mechanical engineering. I represent a constituency which possesses this hereditary capacity. There are two grounds upon which I press this question on the attention of the Admiralty. One is that the increase of the Navy makes it wise to extend the field of recruiting, and the second is that the particular field most required is the field which would supply the Navy with men specially qualified to suit the altered conditions of warships. I do not think it is sufficiently understood how little the Navy is known in Lancashire, for example. It must be remembered that we have all over England a hereditary love of the sea, which breaks out in the case of many young men, and in the manufacturing districts this love of the sea is combined with an inherited engineering capacity. Young men have often asked me how they should go about entering the Navy, and I do not know how to advise them. I doubt whether the Civil Lord himself knows.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : Oh, yes ; I know perfectly well.

MR. HARWOOD : I think the hon. Gentleman will agree with me that it is not generally known, and I am sure that the Navy misses hundreds and thousands of excellent recruits because they do not know how to enter it. Hon. Gentlemen know how timid of trouble people are, and when they meet a difficulty how they desist. What I suggest is that there should at least be as much information given to the public as to how to enter the Navy as there is in the case of the Army. I have been told that post offices supply such information, but I have applied and find that it is not so.

This question has been taken up with some interest in the manufacturing districts. The people there say, " We contribute our fair share to the Navy, and we have a right to have a naval career open to our children if they care to enter it." Many believe that men in the Navy are not treated very well, but nevertheless the people have a right to have this career open to their children. The second point I wish to make perhaps trenches upon delicate ground. Not only have the working classes a right to have this career open to them, but other classes have a similar right. I met a youth recently who had a great desire to enter the Navy, and after being trained at a well-recognised establishment he made an application, only to be met by the barrier of nomination. I do not understand it. I do not see why this career should not be open to our young men just as much as the Army. What does nomination mean? I find that if a youth's father was an admiral or his uncle a captain he could get in. I object to the Navy being treated as a preserve for officers' sons. The nation pays for the Navy, and the nation has a right to share in it, and I protest most strongly against this system of selection. I do not know how the Civil Lord is going to justify it. I think he will not deny that it is personal selection, not selection on the ground of ability or training. I maintain that a candidate should only be asked whether he is prepared to go through the examinations and fill the social necessities of the case, and then let the best man win. It is an advantage to the Navy that it should enlarge its recruiting sphere, and recruit engineers and mechanics, and, with regard to officers, it is a matter of common justice that the Navy should be open to the nation.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): Enormous sums have been devoted this year for naval expenditure, but as far as Ireland is concerned, we have very little interest in this expenditure, though we pay more than our quota towards it. As far as England, Scotland, and Wales are concerned, they have large industries to protect, but unfortunately we have little or no trade to protect, and we get no advantage from the gigantic expenditure in the Navy yards. This is a state of things that has been frequently drawn attention to in this House, and I

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regret to say that the Admiralty have taken no steps to redress our grievance. But, even in other respects, when we ask for a little we get little satisfaction. Last week I put a question to the Chief Secretary in regard to illegal trawling which obtains off the Irish coast, and the right hon. Gentleman answered me that he had frequently applied to the Admiralty for a gunboat to enforce the carrying out of the bye-laws in regard to trawling, but that his applications had met with no results whatever. I think that is a state of things that ought not to be. When the Steam Trawling Act was passed the First Lord assured the hon. Member for North Louth that our interests in Ireland would be protected in the matter. That law did not apply to Ireland, and now steam trawlers come off our coast, and do a great deal of injury to the Irish fisheries, and the Admiralty turn a deaf ear to our application for gun-boats to enforce the local bye-laws. Ten years ago the Leader of the House gave a distinct pledge that our fisheries would be protected by the Admiralty or some other board; but he has failed to carry out that pledge. I may be told that it is not the business of the Admiralty to enforce local bye-laws; but that is just the way in which Irish interests are jobbed from one Department to another. I have a suggestion to make to the right hon. Gentleman to which I hope he will give his favourable consideration. The Bill dealing with agriculture and other Irish industries will be before the House next Monday. It will be a long time before the new Department has arranged matters, but in the meantime a great deal of injury is being done to the Irish fisheries, and I would ask the First Lord whether he will place at the disposal of the Irish Government, or the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries, two or three gun-boats to enforce the bye-laws, which are at present a dead letter.

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I would ask the First Lord of the Admiralty to see that the commanders of the gun-boats off the North Coast of Scotland attend to the work deputed to them. These gun-boats lie too much in harbour, instead of looking after the trawlers. We have a great fishing industry in the North of Scotland, and that is being seriously affected by these gun-boats not performing their duty as they should. There

ought to be more gun-boats for police purposes. I wish to thank the First Lord for the promise he made to send the training ship "Northampton" to Stornoway. The first time she was there she only remained a few hours. That is not sufficient time for boys to travel some thirty or forty miles across the island.

MR. GOSCHEN: There is a training ship at Dundee.

*MR. WEIR: The training ship at Dundee is a reformatory for boys. What I want is to get respectable lads to enter the Navy. Some newer and more modern guns should be sent to the Stornoway Naval Reserve Station. I would like to know why the men of Bernera are not engaged in the Naval Reserve.

MR. GOSCHEN: As to the Irish fisheries, the Admiralty are under no obligation to enforce local bye-laws. Our duty is rather to protect native fisheries against foreign trawlers; although, when occasion offers, our gun-boats afford other assistance. However, I will take into consideration the suggestion of the hon. Member.

MR. POWER: When the Steam Trawling Act was passing through the House the First Lord of the Treasury said, in reply to my hon. and learned friend the Member for Louth, that the interests of the Irish fisheries would be safeguarded, and on that assurance we let the Bill pass. In compliance with that promise a Bill was introduced prohibiting steam trawling within three miles of the Irish coast, but for some reason that Bill never was passed. The Irish Secretary has now a very important Bill before the House, and he says that under that Bill he will be able to protect the Irish fisheries. But it will be some time before he gets his Department into working order. What I wish is that, pending that time, the Admiralty will give us a few gun-boats to enforce the local bye-laws.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I do not think that this is primarily an Admiralty matter. I will, however, confer with the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Chief Secretary for Ireland, and see if anything can be done, but I cannot make any definite promise on the subject.

MR. POWER: Thank you.

*MR. WEIR: I have called attention to several matters, and not one word has been said in regard to them. I beg that this Vote be reduced by £500.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £261,500, be granted for the said Service."—(Mr. Weir.)

MR. GOSCHEN: I can assure the hon. Member that the Highlands have their full share of the attention of the Government. The hon. Member would like to see the training ship "Northampton" at Stornoway for some time. I can say that it will remain there some days. The hon. Member is always saying that there is splendid material for the Navy in the Western Islands, but I can assure him that there is equally splendid material in other parts of the country.

*MR. WEIR: There are no manufactures or other facilities for employment for these men, except fishing and crofting. The right hon. Gentleman has promised that the "Northampton" will remain some days at Stornoway, I hope she will remain two or three weeks. I have no desire to press the Amendment.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

Original Question put and agreed to.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £248,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Belfast, W.): I was advised the other day, by a gentleman who is conversant with the War Office and its ways, never in the future to waste my time in criticising or attacking subordinate officials, but to lay the responsibility where it ought to be, and is, namely upon the Secretary of State for War himself. For indeed, it is the Secretary of State who is after all respon-

sible, and until his attention is drawn to his responsibility, no great improvement will take place. I have taken that advice to heart. I need hardly say that I desire to make my attack on Lord Lansdowne not as an individual, but merely as the responsible head of a great public Department. It would be most ungracious in me if I omitted to add that whatever has been done during the last year or two—and a great deal has been done—to improve the Army, has been due to the Secretary of State himself, rather than to any subordinate in the Department. We gratefully recognise the improvement, or promise of improvement, in regard to the cavalry regiments, about which a great deal of feeling was expressed last session, and we are sanguine enough to believe that that promise will be carried out. We welcome the addition of 2d. to the actual pay of soldiers, and we are pleased to see that a moderate amount of success, largely owing to the initiative of the Secretary of State himself, has attended the employment given to discharged soldiers of good character. I am myself particularly pleased that the Secretary of State for War has met us to a certain extent with regard to the restoration of the old facings of regiments which were particularly proud of them; and I am glad to know that, under his orders, the absurd and impracticable arrangements of the Ordnance Department, which have been so often denounced in this House, have now at last been finally abandoned, and a more rational system been put in their place. While I admit that the Secretary of State has done much good in these matters, I cannot say I am equally pleased with the condition of things that exists in the policy of the War Office. It is all very well to provide a man with a new set of shirt studs, a flower in his buttonhole, and half a crown in his pocket; but if the man happens to be suffering from Oriental plague it is best to let these embellishments wait until you have cured him of his mortal disease. Motion may be the resultant of two forces, a propulsive force and a withholding force; and if the withholding force is superior the result is motion in a backward direction. The retarding force in the War Office has mastered the propelling force, and the result is a retrograde movement. I desire to criticise the policy of the Secretary of State

for War, who is responsible, on certain definite and specific heads. I want to criticise the action, or inaction, of the War Office in regard to the Report which was presented to Parliament last year. That is entirely a matter within the province of the War Office. Hon. Members, I hope, have not forgotten what that Report was. I regret to say that its character and purport are not sufficiently well known, owing to insufficient discussion in the country. I venture to say that never in the history of any Department of Government has there been such a disclosure of administrative incompetence as is disclosed in that Report. That Report was the outcome of an inquiry of a very remarkable Committee. That Committee was formed by the War Office, and was presided over by the Under Secretary of State at that time. It called before it, as witnesses, the most prominent members of the War Office, and took their evidence. And if you wanted to damn the War Office, to discredit its operations, to make it appear a ridiculous and impossible institution, you could not have done better than to repeat the words of that Report, and the evidence on which it was based. I want to know what has been done to give effect to the recommendations of that Report, for, be it noted, these recommendations are not the outcome of, nor do they correspond to the recommendations by private Members; but are made in the interest of the British Army by the War Office itself. We have heard that something has been done. We have been told that some very violent action has been taken, and that the Financial Secretary has got to the point of reducing by £5,000 a year the salaries of the War Office clerks. There is an old story about a man trying to cure an earthquake with a pill, but I have not heard that the treatment was successful; and I am not convinced that even this resource of reducing the War Office clerks' salaries by £5,000 will meet the case. I wish to put a question. Sometimes we have great difficulty in placing the responsibility on the proper person. But in this case I may clearly put the responsibility on the Secretary of State for War, and I want to ask him what he has done with regard to a particular officer who took a marked part in producing the evidence given before that Committee. I want to quote to the House a statement which was made by one of the most

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eminent soldiers in the British Army, and one of the most prominent in the administration of the War Office, I mean Sir Redvers Buller. That eminent officer said :

"I should like to say clearly and openly that I start from this point, and I think I have verified it sufficiently, that the whole system of reports, and regulations, and warrants under which the British Army now serves, has grown up entirely for the benefit of the War Office clerks, and to find work for the War Office clerks rather than to provide control over the army."

That is a very serious statement indeed, and what I want to ask is, what business had Sir Redvers Buller to make it ? For the head of a Department, after having been in this responsible position for ten years, and having had the full control of the Department, to openly state at the end of his term that whilst he was there the Department to his knowledge was grossly mismanaged, and that it was conducted for purposes not in the interest of the business for advancing which he received his pay, is an astounding thing, and I can only say that in the trading concern to which I have the honour to belong, or in any concern conducted for profit, we should give short shrift to the head of a Department who acted in such a fashion. When we find an officer in the position of Sir Redvers Buller making such a statement as this after he has left his post, we should make him verify his statement. It would be impertinence in me to criticise him as a soldier, but as a Member of this House and as a taxpayer I am certainly entitled to ask whether any explanation of his statement has been required from him by the Secretary of State. This monstrous condition of things has apparently been going on for ten years to his knowledge, and nothing has been done during the whole of that time to remedy the evil he so graphically describes. I quote this case as an example only, and the conclusion I have been forced to come to is that until we have a thorough transformation of the manner of doing business at the War Office we shall get no advance in the British Army at all. Moreover, I want to know whether the melancholy catalogue of evil and absurd practices which is set out in this report has led to any action which is worthy of the name being taken by the War Office. This is clearly a matter in which the responsibility of the Secretary of State for War is

immediately and primarily involved. I now come to another matter in which I desire to criticise the policy and action—or inaction—of the Secretary of State. Lord Lansdowne as head of the Army is responsible for the defence of this country. He is also the Parliamentary head of the War Office, and responsible for letting the country know the real condition of the Army. I challenge contradiction when I say that the whole effort of the representatives of the War Office has been for the last three years to lead people to believe that there has been a substantial addition to the British Army. That is not the fact. It is the fact that Lord Lansdowne has endeavoured to produce such an impression, and it is only through an accident that the country has learned the truth as to the Army. Only a week ago Lord Lansdowne made a statement in the House of Lords that despite the difficulties in the way of the War Office they were adding to the Army. That is not correct, there is no addition being made to the Army at all. Five years ago the force of the Regular Army, Militia, and Army Reserve was 408,900 men. In the present year the number is 408,924 ; that is to say that during the five years we have added twenty-four men to the effective forces of the country, and this during a period when there has been an enormous addition to the Army Estimates. Five years ago the amount of the Army Estimates was £17,980,000, and this year they amount to £19,528,000, an increase of £1,545,000. That has been going on for five years ; we have had increases during the period of £7,000,000 sterling. The Vote for naval works is about the same figure. What would be the criticism of this House, if, after £7,500,000 had been expended, the Admiralty could only point to an increase of the Navy by twenty-four men ?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) : All those millions have not been devoted to the increase of men.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER : I understand my hon. friend says that all this expenditure has not been devoted to getting men, but he ought to remember how often we have been told that these additions were being made to the Army,

and he ought to be as explicit on other occasions as he now appears desirous of being, and he ought to tell the country frankly that after all this expenditure we have only added twenty-four men to the Army. The Secretary of State said only the other day that we were making up slowly the addition that Parliament sanctioned. He said it was true that 5,000 were taken from the Army Reserve, and appeared as an addition to the Army; but that is no addition at all. The remainder have come from the Militia, which is already available for the service of the country. The men have been taken from one force and put into another. I, and probably other hon. Members are familiar with the measures that are resorted to, and efforts that are being made to cozen these men out of the Militia into the Army. I could tell the House what is done in the depôts in this matter, and of the pressure which is put upon the men to leave the Militia and enter the line. Of course, where the devil drives one must needs go, but if we must get men in this way do not let us be told that we are adding to the defensive forces of the country. With regard to the policy which the Secretary of State has thought fit to adopt to cope with this state of things, I admit he has made gallant attempts to get more men to come into the Army, but we have always said he was going the wrong way about it, and not doing the proper thing to get men into the Army, and to keep them in the Army when he got them. A few days ago in the House of Lords the Secretary of State spoke in a most alarming manner, and it looked as if we were on the verge of conscription. It may be that we shall have to come to that unfortunate condition of things. There are many of us who believe that a time will come when we shall no longer be able to get an army on a voluntary system, but before we come to so melancholy a conclusion we should make a trial of all other methods. The old method is a failure—let us try others. The Secretary of State says that he will never consent to a long service army and a short service army existing at the same time, but a long service army already exists in practice, though in theory it has no existence whatever. All the advantages that appertain to long service have been abandoned, and the disadvantages of the short service

retained, but, nevertheless, there are as many long service men in the Army as there have ever been since the Crimea. If you led recruits to understand that they were in for long service you might get some advantage by doing so, but when you enlist men for short service and then persuade them to prolong their term, under short-service rules; or when you call men back from the Reserve, you are doing that which is unjust in itself, which produces the minimum of advantage, and which as a remedy for your difficulties is bound to fail. The authorities attribute the falling off of recruits to the goodness of trade, and that no doubt is a great bar to recruiting, but I should like to point out that the Army is not the only military force in this country. There is a force of 20,000 men, which, I believe, is the best military force in the country—the Royal Marines, and though there has been some falling off in the recruiting there, they are still adding men to the corps. In the last few years the Marines have been increased from 14,000 to 20,000 men, a real, and not a sham increase; and though the recruiting has been slack during the last six months the falling off has only amounted to 183 men. I think the War Office might learn a lesson from the Royal Marines in this respect, and the sooner they learn that lesson the better for the Army and the country. I am not prepared to accept the statement that good trade is the reason for the failure of recruits. The Secretary of State for War tells us that something is being done to increase the facilities and opportunities for employing discharged soldiers; but there again, though he is doing good work, he is not getting the benefit of it. Lord Lansdowne professes to believe in chance charity, but I have always urged that employment after service should be absolutely assured to men who fulfil certain conditions. Common-sense tells us that if you want to get a man to join the Army as a career you must give him some guarantee that when he leaves it, provided he has satisfied certain conditions, he will be entitled to employment. There is no guarantee at present, and it is a mere toss up whether he will get employment or not, or of what kind or form his employment may be. If the War Office wants to get recruits, they must give them a guarantee when

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they enlist. The Secretary of State tells us there is a difficulty in getting men, but would it not be better to keep the men he has got? He does not realise, and the country does not realise, the amount of waste that goes on in the Army at the present time. The Secretary of State adopts a system which loses him thousands of men who ought to be retained in the Army. I find from the Report that in 1897 of men under twenty-one years of age no less than 4,411 were discharged from the Army, and 1,924 deserted before they completed their term of service. This makes a total of 6,335, and, when we remember that the whole number of men discharged from the Army in the year was 12,900, we are able to realise the extent of this waste. I believe that nine-tenths of that waste is absolutely preventible. As it is absolutely necessary for the Committee to know the extent of waste that goes on I take another figure. There were discharged into the Army Reserve in 1898 16,220 men. Those are the men who have completed their effective service. In 1892 there were 39,500 men enlisted into the Army, so that the waste in those six years—men absolutely obliterated and lost to the country—amounted, roughly speaking, to no less than 23,000 men. Making the most ample allowance for the men who extended their service in any one year, that margin of 23,000 men gone out of the Army, lost to the country, in six years is so serious that the Secretary of State ought to be able to give some better explanation than we have ever had of the merits of the system which permit such a thing to be of regular occurrence. Why is it hard, as we are told it is, to get non-commissioned officers in the Army, and afterwards to keep them? I should like to state why so many leave after their seven years' term. It is because inducements are not offered to them to extend their term before they come to the end of their engagement. The Secretary of State could get scores and hundreds of men who make the best class of non-commissioned officers if he would only arrange to use a little common-sense and extend the only system which has yet been tried with success. Where do the N.C.O.'s come from now? Seven-tenths are men who come through the Duke of York School or the Royal Hibernian School. It is only by accident that these boys get into the Army at all. So im-

provident is our system that if you had twice as many boys at those schools, the additional boys would never get into the Army at all, and there again I say that the policy that the Secretary of State clings to is a wrong one. It is a policy which disregards alike the dictates of Englishmen and common-sense. Lord Lansdowne, in his remarks the other day, did not say a word that was not within the mark about the Militia, which is dying, or rather I should say is being killed by the present system. He said it was dying, and adumbrated heroic measures for its resuscitation. He said it was 19,000 below strength; it is a great deal more than that; if we regard as effective the men present at inspection, it is 44,000 below its established strength, and if we take away the Militia Reserve it is 68,000 below its established strength. I venture to recommend a treatment of the Militia very different from the drastic remedy suggested by the Secretary of State—the Militia should be treated as if they were human beings and Englishmen. What is the inducement to men to enlist as militiamen? Their officers, if they behave themselves, are taken away in a couple of years; they are not sure of their comrades, for in every Militia regiment some hundreds of "special service men" on the first alarm of war are taken away; the Militia Reserve would also in event of war be drafted off for service with the Line; they are given an inferior uniform, and on every occasion are treated as if they were the drudges of the Army. Is it not the fact that at the War Office a Militia officer is rebuked or praised exactly in proportion as he makes his battalion a feeder of the Line? That is not the way to encourage Englishmen to take an interest in their work, and until the Secretary of State recognises the fact we all know he will have the same melancholy tale to tell as that which he told the other day. In conclusion, I challenge the policy of the Secretary of State, because, in my opinion, in almost every direction it disregards the ordinary feelings of Englishmen. There is no branch of the service which the War Office can touch that it has touched without injuring. Only this afternoon the House had another instance of the disregard by the War Office of the human

element in the men it controlled, in the answer of the Under Secretary of State with regard to recruiting for the Volunteers, which to my mind is typical of the whole course of business at the War Office. He has threatened that if the non-commissioned officers of the force do not follow the course prescribed by the War Office, and follow men into public-houses to get them to join the Army, they shall be dismissed the service.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! I think the remarks of the hon. Gentleman are going a long way outside the scope of the Vote.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Of course, I bow to your ruling, but I hope an opportunity will be given him for dwelling upon the question of Volunteer instructors and recruiting, and I may say that the answer which was put into the mouth of my hon. friend was so uninformed and so misleading that it was a pity he was ever allowed to give it. I do not hesitate to say that, unless there is a radical change in the whole point of view of the War Office with regard to the Service, the country is going straight to disaster. I have had the honour of obtaining the views of men of every rank in every branch of the Service in every part of the world, and I am forced to the conclusion that there is a radical difference of opinion and a radical difference in the point of view between officers actually serving with the troops and the chiefs of the War Office; and that until there is an absolute revolution in the views of one side or the other there never can be that harmony which is so essential to the efficient administration of the service. There is an absolute want of comprehension of the true feelings and aspirations of the soldier among those who administer the War Office. The War Office has pledged itself over and over again to a policy which it said would surely succeed, and it has failed; and the War Office is now compelled to admit that it has failed, and we ask that there should be a radical change in the policy and point of view in those who administer the Department.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: The melancholy answer given at question time to-day to the hon. Member for Cheltenham only emphasised the failure of the War Office as regards recruiting for the

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Army, which was developed by the Secretary of State in his speech the other day. It has been shown by my hon. friend the Member for Belfast, that the number of 12,000 men which we were supposed to have obtained is entirely illusory; that the supply of recruits has failed lamentably. The sad admission of the Secretary of State War is, with regard to the failure of the War Office in the matter of recruiting, only what Members interested in the subject have prophesied over and over again would come to pass. But the falling off in recruits is worse even than it appears on the surface. The safety of this country in time of war must depend mainly, not on the troops shut up in distant colonies and fortifications, but upon the striking Army, the Army we can send out immediately. But the number of men at home has greatly diminished during the last four years, and we are in a far weaker position in respect of sending out an expeditionary force than we have been in for a long time, and that despite a large increase in expenditure. But while we are not allowed to discuss on this Vote the condition of the Militia and Volunteers, there has been admittedly pressure brought to bear upon the Militia, and also upon the Volunteers, which are being used merely as recruiting agencies for the Line. If the War Office is tied to the maintenance of the present system on the general lines adopted by three successive Governments, then it is impossible for them to do otherwise. They must find men where they can, and if they do not believe much in the practical value of the Volunteers to this country, they naturally fall back upon the Militia and the Volunteers, and use them as mere recruiting agencies of the Line, without caring whether the efficiency of those forces is diminished or not. This great decrease which has occurred in the number of troops at home, and the absolutely stationary character as regards the number of troops in the whole Empire, is accompanied by many stratagems for swelling the numbers. The standard has been progressively lowered, and that has produced a large increase. The standard of the Guards is now 5ft. 7in., while the standard for the Line is 5ft. 3½in. In addition to this, 13,000 "specials," not even possessing the present qualifications, have been accepted during the last year. The proportion of

special enlists is increasing steadily and even rapidly. In 1896 the specials constituted 18 per cent., in 1897 29 per cent., and in 1898 34 per cent.* In spite of all this, the number of the troops is of a stationary character, and there are "serious misgivings as regards the future" in the mind of the Secretary of State. In spite of every stratagem being used to increase the numbers—that is, the reduction of the standard and the pressure brought to bear on the Militia and the Volunteers, which is practically destroying those forces—the number of the troops remains stationary. I need not, in face of these terrible facts, dwell upon any other points upon which, if we had time to-night, I should have liked to question the administration of the War Office. The Volunteers can hardly be dealt with upon the Volunteer Vote to-day. The difficulties of the Army with regard to ranges—which the Government are now making attempts to cope with—have only further deteriorated a portion of our forces. In regard to the strength of the artillery, which is a matter of rapidly increasing importance, the Government have fallen far short of the endeavours which they ought to have made. I cannot ask the Government to tell us all they know upon this question, but I am sure they must know what is a matter of common notoriety amongst those who have been able to follow the French experiments in artillery. There can be no doubt that one great Power, at all events, has an artillery gun which is altogether in advance of anything which we possess in this country. The new French gun is a real quick-firing gun, of which the French have now mastered the difficulties. It has a hydro-pneumatic brake, allowing of rapid firing without the relaying of the gun even in difficult country; and that is altogether in advance of anything which this country possesses, and the Government, with all its enormous expenditure upon the Army, were only able to tell us that they had adopted a temporary expedient, that further inquiry was being made, and that important developments might be looked for in the future. We are certainly enormously behind, in this all-important respect, of one of the great Powers, and it is a matter which, even on a night when we have but a very short time to devote to the discussion of the *Jacks* of the War Office, deserves the

attention of the House. There have been discussions upon this subject lately in which the whole of the shortcomings of the Government have been exposed. There was a most interesting discussion the other day over this artillery question at the Royal Artillery Institution, where General Brackenbury was in the chair, and Colonel Bainbridge cross-examined the officers in regard to the artillery operations in Egypt. On that occasion Major Young took part in the discussions, and what he said curiously illustrated the feeling of this country in regard to the artillery which was put forward when we had the Debate at the beginning of this session. We then criticised the whole policy of the War Office with regard to the non-rearmament of the artillery, and in regard to those Debates, Major Young said very frankly that a British officer hardly knew what to do with wagons, and could not understand ammunition supply because they were never drilled in this respect in this country. This, I think, is a matter which, even on a night when we are limited in time, deserves the attention of the Committee, and ought to be pressed upon the notice of the War Office. With regard to the main question which my hon. friend opposite, in a powerful speech, has placed before the Committee, I desire to ask whether we can expect the country to rest content with the general military system which has brought us to such a sad pass in regard to our national recruiting as that which we have confessedly reached at the present time. The Under Secretary of State seems to think that it is a sufficient reply to the proposals of myself and of my hon. friend to ask how we would deal with the regimental system. My hon. friend the Under Secretary for War is a little new to his place; and although he has been able to pick up the threads of past Debates after being in office during one very busy session only, we can hardly expect that he can thoroughly have mastered everything that has been written upon this subject. Those of us who believe in the establishment of two separate armies—a long-service army serving abroad, and a short-service army serving at home—with free exchange of officers and men between them—are not afraid to say so. But we have not pinned ourselves to the actual separation of the two armies. Those of us

who hold the most extreme views of separate armies have exposed ourselves to criticism with regard to the regimental system, but we have been able to meet that criticism by the modified proposal which we put forward to couple the existing regimental system with the proposals which we have made. It would meet the essentials of our view if you gave the men the chance of enlistment under either the long-service or the short-service system. If you adopt frankly those two systems of recruiting, and put them forward without any cheating at all of the recruits or of the taxpayers, I believe that, with all the facts before us relating to the long service marines, and even the facts of your own brief trial of the three years' system, you will see that they all go to show that you would meet with a success. We firmly believe that they do offer some chance of success, whereas your own system has proved a hopeless wreck. I know there is a very deep-rooted War Office prejudice in this matter. Many of the younger and most brilliant men in the service believe in having two forms of enlistment offered to the men, but successive Governments have resisted the idea, and they have been backed up by a large amount of War Office authority. They have resisted it in their speeches, in which they have told us that we were about to see the triumphant and final success of their alternative system. We have now seen this absolute and final breakdown in the system, and I venture to ask that some members of the Committee should join our ranks, and help us to adopt some such system, which we have recommended, and to which the Government promised to give a trial. It cannot be said that the trial on a small scale of the three years' system is the fair test for which we ask of the reform we advocate. Moreover, there is a distinction drawn between the three years, men and other men in the rate of pay, and constant pressure is brought to bear upon the three years' men to extend their service. Therefore we cannot admit that that is a fair trial of the shorter system. In adding my voice to the cause put forward by the hon. Member for Belfast, I think I may say that the War Office confess the failure of their policy which was revealed to the country in the speech delivered by the Secretary for War.

Sir Charles Dilke.

*GENERAL RUSSELL (Cheltenham) : I feel that I require no apology in asking the indulgence of the Committee to enable me to call attention to what is probably the most important matter in connection with the money which they are now asked to vote for the support of the Army. I allude to the organisation of the War Office. In round numbers we spend about twenty millions on our Army exclusive of the Indian establishment, and I regret to say that in connection with this vast expenditure of money there has long been, and there is now, I fear, a very strong feeling, not only in this House, but also out of doors, that we do not get the full value for our money. It has been asserted—and, I fear, not without good ground—that the office which has practically the dispensing of this vast sum is faulty in organisation, cumbersome and unpractical in its methods, in short, that it does not turn to best account the funds placed at its disposal. As a result of this widespread feeling of mistrust the present Secretary of State appointed a Committee about a year and a half since, with the right hon. Gentleman the present Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs as president, to report on the decentralisation of War Office business. This Committee sat for about two months, took a large amount of evidence, and issued their report on the 16th of March last year. Now, Sir, I do not hesitate to say that the evidence and Report contained in these pages, although they contain nothing that surprises those who, from personal experience, are conversant with the War Office and its ways, cannot fail to fill the mind of any man of ordinary business capacity, who takes the trouble to read them, with astonishment and disgust. Such extraordinary circumlocution, muddling mismanagement, and want of system would bring any ordinary commercial business to a standstill in six months. To give some instances quoted in the Report, the general officer commanding at Aldershot could not transfer a gunner from one battery to another under his command without reference to London, and papers that required nine signatures; nor could he send back an unsatisfactory gunner of the district staff to his battery at Woolwich without papers involving twelve signatures. No general could authorise the issue of straw hats at 3d. a-piece, and specially ordered by the medical officer to protect a work-

ing party from sunstroke, without reference to the War Office. I should weary the Committee were I to multiply instances of this most extraordinary and unpractical system as quoted in this Report and evidence—perhaps, however, I might be permitted to give one instance out of these many from my own practical experience; I can do so with less hesitation, as all the officials to whom I refer are now dead. A good many years ago I was employed in the Intelligence Branch of the Adjutant-General's Department, and was brought over to the War Office to take the duty of the late Sir Thomas Baker, who had been suddenly ordered to India to take up the duties of Military Secretary to the Viceroy. Musketry was one of the subjects dealt with by the Department, of which I had temporary charge. One day the chief civilian clerk, an admirable official, well acquainted with all the intricacies of War Office traditions, brought me a telegram from the officer commanding at Aldershot, begging that an answer might be sent to a pressing application which he had made a few days since, requesting that authority might be given to the Ordnance Store officer to issue targets, at which troops now assembled at Aldershot for musketry training might practise skirmishing. The chief clerk told me that he had made a search in the office for the paper in question, which had been already then about a week receiving annotations and signatures from various subordinate officials. It appeared that some canvas targets were required of the value of about 30s., to enable the troops to finish their musketry; that these were in store at Aldershot, but could not be issued without authority from London; it appeared also that the matter was pressing, the troops in question were under canvas, the weather was breaking, and the officer commanding was anxious to let them finish their course and go into winter quarters. The Adjutant-General happened to be away for a couple of days, so I could not ask his advice, and the chief clerk assured me that before this expenditure of 30s. could be sanctioned this paper must be submitted to a number of other officials, including the Director of Artillery, the Accountant-General, and I believe to several others, that it would then have to be submitted to the Commander-in-Chief, when it would again come back to the Adjutant-General, and

hence that the request of the general commanding at Aldershot could not possibly be granted within a week. I said, "Telegraph at once, and sanction the issue of these targets. We can square all these people afterwards. If bad comes to worse it is only a matter of 30s. I will pay it myself." The chief clerk appeared much shocked by my levity, and told me that I was transgressing all the rules of the War Office. I said, "Never mind, I will take the risk; please have a letter written in the Commander-in-Chief's name for me to sign, confirming the telegram." A day of reckoning, however, was in store for me. A short time afterwards the Adjutant-General sent for me and told me that I had got him into a terrible scrape, and I must come with him and make my peace with some of the officials whose authority I had disregarded. He showed me into a room where there was a little fat man with a red face, bursting with indignation. The Adjutant-General said, "This is the young and inexperienced officer of whom you complained; he wishes to apologise. I am sure he will never do such a thing again." Such, Sir, are, or were the ways of the War Office. I will not, however, inflict on the Committee any more anecdotes from my own or any other persons' experience; I will only refer them to the printed evidence laid before them. Sir Redvers Buller is a well known officer, who has now what is undoubtedly the most important command in the United Kingdom. He, moreover, had about twenty-three years' experience of the War Office, only broken by various periods when he was on active service. On page 40 you will see he says:

"The whole system of reports and regulations and warrants under which the British Army now serves has grown up entirely for the benefit of War Office clerks, and to find work at the War Office rather than to find control for the Army."

And, again, in answer to Question 954, when asked if there had not been an enormous transfer of actual administrative work from the civil to the military side, he replies:

"You cannot say that the work is administrative if the officer in charge is not responsible for the accomplishment of it."

Now, Sir, I will not attempt to wade through a tenth of the evidence contained

in this Paper. I will only call the attention of the Committee to the evidence of Sir W. Butler, a well-known officer, who himself was some time at the War Office, and held what is at the present moment the most important command in any of our colonies, India excepted. But he makes some further most important and serious statements ; he states it to be his deliberate opinion that our young army is not properly trained. In answer to Questions 1506-7-8-9, he expresses this opinion, and refers to the checks and disasters that occurred in the Afridi war. He attributes this want of training to the fact that staff officers and generals in command are unable to devote the time necessary for the proper training of troops, in consequence of having such an enormous amount of office work and preparation of returns to the War Office—returns which, as I learn by the evidence, are scarcely ever read. Well, Sir, this Committee made many practical recommendations, only a small proportion of which I am told have as yet been carried out. The Secretary of State also, in his opening statement at the commencement of this session, informed us that a Departmental Committee had been appointed to inquire into the organisation of the War Office. I have addressed several questions to the hon. Gentleman the Financial Secretary, the Chairman, as to this Committee—when its Report will be issued, and whether it will be published—but have failed to get any satisfactory reply. I really think we must press the Government to hold nothing back, to conceal nothing, and to publish the evidence of this Committee. It may not be generally known that practically the financial work of the War Office is done twice over. Exclusive of the Pay Department, which, of course, must remain centralised under the sole control of the Accountant-General, there are three great spending departments at the War Office : The Quartermaster-General for supplies, clothing, and such like ; the Inspector-General of Ordnance for ammunition, guns, material, etc. ; and the Inspector-General of Fortifications for barracks, works, etc. Each one of these departments has financial clerks attached to it, who are supposed to exercise financial control over the expenditure. There is also the department of the Accountant - General, which also exercises financial control—a dual control, one of which is superfluous. In point of

fact, no officer in charge of one of these great departments is free to spend the money voted for it without reference not only to the finance department of his own branch, but also to the Accountant-General and his clerk, who, I believe, often keep applications for weeks without a reply, much to the detriment of the service. I maintain that each officer in charge of these great departments should be held responsible, and solely responsible for it, subject to that financial control which is customary and necessary in all commercial matters of business, and which Parliament very rightly demands. Such is the system in Germany, with the result of which the Committee is well acquainted, that is, so far as possible, efficiency combined with economy. In point of fact our present system is framed on that which was in force in the French Army prior to 1870. I remember well seeing a French play shortly after that disaster. The Minister of War was depicted, surrounded by papers and clerks, worn to death by signing his name. Telegrams were coming from all parts saying that in one place the soldiers had no food, in another no boots, in another no ammunition. The Minister replied : "I can attend to none of these things ; let the men starve, let ammunition fail, let armies be defeated, let kingdoms be lost, but abolish not a single return, let not a single War Office clerk be pensioned or dismissed." I quite recognise the answer of the present Secretary and Under Secretary to do their best for the Army, and I believe that no War Minister has ever done so much as he has done already during his term of office. I quite realise the difficulty of dealing with vested interests, but if the evidence of Sir W. Butler is to be trusted regarding the cost of this establishment effect, it would pay us well to retire all unnecessary clerks on full pay, and say have another half brigade of infantry.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) : In reviewing the general policy of the Army I shall not attempt to deal with the War Office, inasmuch as it has been very fully dealt with by the hon. and gallant Member for Cheltenham. I will simply say that centralisation is undoubtedly the curse of the British Army, so far as ad-

ministration is concerned. As regards the Horse Guards, I should be sorry to say one word which would seem to be of a carping nature, inasmuch as these officers do all in their power to make the best of the material which is placed at their disposal, and they rightly and properly say that the question of how the material is to be produced is not a military question. Some years ago those of us in this House who take an interest in the question placed before the country the fact that the defensive forces were inadequate to the Empire. We pointed out that, in our humble opinion, if the present system is to be continued a large number of battalions should be added to the line, in order that the battalions on foreign service should be adequate, without, at the same time, reducing the home battalions to non-effective fighting units. We were half met by the War Office authorities. They decided to add 25,000 men to the Army within three years. And what has been the result? We are told that they only succeeded in getting 12,000 men. But, as has been pointed out, 5,000 of these men have been stolen, if I may use the word, from the Army Reserve. The result is that we are farther off than ever from having the force necessary for the adequate defence of the Empire. We look for an increase of attractions in the Army, and I admit that the present Government have done much in that direction; but with reference to the employment of time-expired men, I am of opinion that they have not done all that they might have done. Of course, we shall be told that the people of this country have great reliance on the Navy. Now, it is not the business of those of us interested in military matters to take that fact into such consideration as it deserves; the point is that the military forces of the country are not, in our opinion, sufficient. We are told that we have men and money enough, and should be perfectly able to meet difficulties when difficulties come. Some years ago our neighbours the French, than whom

there is not a more gallant and patriotic nation, fell into this mistake, contenting themselves with the belief that at the time of war every man would step forward in defence of the country. They did step forward. And what was the result? That the German Army, by superior organisation, properly drilled troops, with excellent commanders, practically trampled the French nation into the ground. Our object is to see that by short-sightedness we do not experience a similar danger in this country. What has happened recently? The Secretary of State for War has himself, in another place, practically admitted that the present system, if not actually breaking down, is on the point of doing so. I am anxious that the Under-Secretary for War should make a similar statement in this House, in order that the people of this country may know the position in which they are placed with reference to the military defences of the Empire. The Secretary for War has pointed out what many of us know, but what the majority of the people of this country do not know, viz., that by the suspension of the voluntary system by Order in Council, almost every able-bodied man in the country is liable to be called out for military service. The Secretary for War has put forward the suggestion of a ballot for the Militia. The ballot for the Militia will not solve the question of producing recruits to the line. I think it was very clearly proved by the speeches of the hon. Gentlemen who preceded me that the failure of the voluntary system has practically taken place. We are supposed to have a regular force of 176,000 men; we have only 157,000, and are therefore 19,000 short. The Army Reserve is 12,000 short, the Militia 19,000 short, the Yeomanry 2,000 short, and the Volunteers 33,000 short; and yet we are calling on the people of this country to produce exactly three millions sterling more than they voted ten years ago for the Army, and as the hon. Member for West Belfast pointed out, we have

twenty-four men in addition. We are spending one-sixth of the total revenue on the Army, and after all we have not sufficient troops to produce an expeditionary force of two army corps. The Secretary for War pointed out that the responsibilities of our position are very great indeed, and that we might have to enlist large numbers of mercenary troops in order to hold our possessions. But we ought to look at the other side of the question, and remember what befell great empires in days gone by, like Rome and Carthage, when they relied too much on mercenaries. Even the best of our Indian regiments, except the Goorkhas, without a certain backing of European troops, are not to be relied upon. During the past twenty years the Army has been considerably below its proper strength, and if we are ever to get it up the source of supply must certainly be changed. We seek to obtain recruits from small agricultural counties which are practically depleted of men, and we let large districts with immense populations like South Wales and Lancashire produce practically the same number. We are told that we have some 78,000 Army Reserve men, but I would ask the Under Secretary for War whether he believes for a moment, if he endeavoured to call out the Army Reserve, he would get 50,000, or even 40,000, who were fit to join the ranks of the Army. He knows it would be practically impossible. Out of the 213,000 Volunteers, how many would break down on the march, and how many of them are actually efficient? Would that force be of the smallest value in the event of the invasion of this country, unprovided as they are with transports, and weak as they are in artillery and cavalry? The Secretary of State threw out the suggestion that the best thing we could do would be, seeing that we had the power to raise a Militia force, and inasmuch as the Militia costs only £15 per head, to raise another 100,000 Militia men in the hope of getting recruits for the Line. Would it not be very much

Captain Norton.

better for the Secretary of State to make a clean breast of it, and tell the people of this country that the present system has absolutely broken down, and that we must have recourse to the system recommended by my right hon. friend? If you will introduce a long service system for India and the Colonies, and make some approach to the current standard of wages for unskilled labour in the country, as well as formulate some scheme whereby security is offered as to employment after a man leaves the service, the Army will certainly get enough men for its purpose. With regard to the question of finance, I am confident that if the issue at stake is clearly defined, there is enough common sense in the people of this country to justify me in saying that they would be prepared to pay the requisite bill, rather than run the most remote risk of being placed in the position in which a great country contiguous to ours was placed in only a few months ago.

***CAPTAIN BAGOT** (Westmorland, Kendal): The Report of the Committee on the War Office is undoubtedly a very damaging document, but it does not apply so much to the present as to the late administration. The evidence of Sir Redvers Buller is most striking. He said the enormous amount of correspondence and Returns which have to be sent to the War Office rendered useful administration impossible. The Committee reported that a large number of Returns and Reports might be usefully abolished, and that the abolition of one Return alone, relating to the employment of civil practitioners, would save 1,500 letters in a year. I understand that almost every one of the recommendations of the Select Committee has been approved, or partly approved, by the present Secretary for War, and it is evident that if the omission of only one return is going to relieve the War Office to the extent of something like 1,500 letters a year, an enormous mass of correspondence and returns must have been saved by the action of the present Secretary of State for War. So far as I understand, no reference has been made to the fact that the present administration has gone a very long way towards remedying the evil, and it would be interesting to know what is the amount of reduction, if any, in the

number of clerks, and the salaries of those clerks. If it is admitted that the whole mass of correspondence scheduled in the report of the Select Committee has been taken away, there ought to be a corresponding diminution in the number of clerks and in their salaries. The evidence of Sir Redvers Buller was extremely strong. He pointed out that it was impossible to carry on the business of the War Office with that immense mass of correspondence, and he gave as one reason for such a mass that it was owing to the action of the House of Commons, whose Members were always asking for returns for some purpose or other, which was not always easy to discover, but which entailed an immense amount of clerical work and time; and also that questions were asked about the smallest details as to what was going on in some remote part of the Empire. Of course those matters have to be dealt with, but the House of Commons should not require too much, if it is not prepared to pay for it. I should like to refer to one other matter, and I do not wish to advocate it from any sentimental point of view. I believe that the system of hospital accommodation for soldiers as it at present exists is very expensive. The hon. Member for West Belfast said that something like 6,000 men leave the Army yearly who could not be accounted for. But the hon. Gentleman seems to have forgotten that between 3,000 and 4,000 are accounted for as being invalided out of the Army, and that out of that 3,000 or 4,000 about 1,000 are dealt with by the Chelsea Commissioners. Still, out of 200,000 men something like 13,000 a year are constantly non-effective from illness, which is a very large proportion. In civilian hospitals there is always a large proportion of inmates who, after the first period of their illness, are sent to convalescent homes; but in the whole of the hospital system of the Army there does not appear to be any regular system of convalescent homes. I believe there is only one such home open to soldiers, and it has accommodation simply for sixty-eight patients. Surely the War Office authorities must see that it would not only be desirable but economical, if soldiers, instead of being sent back to the ranks after a short time in hospital or discharged, could have the advantage of some system of convalescent homes. If there could be some arrangement with some of

those homes to take the partly cured soldiers—and I believe something of the kind has been suggested—into the civilian hospitals which could afford to receive them at a cheap rate, the men might be able to return to efficient service after a certain time. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will be able to give some favourable answer to these suggestions.

*MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): It is a matter of regret that the number attending the Committee to-night is very small, considering the gravity of the questions we are discussing. There have been many criticisms passed on various questions already, and I trust I shall not be out of order if, in criticising the policy of the Secretary of State for War, I especially dwell on the conditions of recruiting which receive his sanction and for which I hold him responsible. I might find fault with many other points, but in view of the Debate that has taken place the Committee must be pretty well assured that there have been sufficient subjects for criticism already. From the preliminary return of the British Army issued in anticipation of the annual report, I find that, of the 84,000 persons who were last year served with notices by recruiters, 27,500 were rejected prior to attestation, 12,500 failed to appear for attestation, and 5,000 were rejected after attestation, and the unprecedented number of 600 deserted. These are record recruiting figures on a downward scale, and show that the class from which we draw recruits is steadily becoming worse, and that a radical change is required. The Army authorities are in desperate straits, and every expedient is being adopted to obtain recruits. I think when there comes an almost illegitimate connection between recruiting and the public-house, it is time we adopted some very different system of obtaining recruits. This connection is far more general than Members care to recognise, and demands serious attention. I would also refer to-night to the very evil effect on the Army of the system which prevails to a very great extent of enlisting men under false ages, not merely one or two years younger than the regular age, but to the extent of three or four years under what is supposed to be the case. Until we are prepared to adopt some such system as prevails in the Navy, or even in the Marines,

of demanding some moral character or birth certificate, we will never obtain the class we ought to as recruits for the Army.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The question of recruiting cannot be gone into in detail on this Vote; it arises on Vote 1.

*MR. PIRIE: I do not intend to go further than to hold out the present recruiting system as the chief reason for the very unsatisfactory state of affairs which at present exists with regard to the supply of recruits. When we are in such desperate straits as at present concerning our Army, it is our bounden duty to put forward what suggestions we can for improving matters. You will never obtain the class of recruits you require until you recognise that that class are animated by the same feelings as are the class from which the commissioned ranks are supplied. At present there is an utter disregard of the human feelings of that class. Before even the talk about conscription is indulged in—"the curse of conscription," as it was aptly described the other day by a distinguished officer—many other expedients must be tried. The possibility should be considered of holding out further inducements for men to join by increasing the number of commissions given from the ranks. If the number of such commissions was increased it would be a very strong inducement to men to join. Then we have been far too ready to imitate foreign Powers in the matter of tailoring trivialities. We must take up more serious business than that. Officers of the British Army must recognise that it may be necessary that uniform should be worn more generally than it is at present. Were this adopted it would have the beneficial effect of making the uniform of the private soldier more respected. And with this might be granted greater facilities for cheap travelling, both to officers and men, while it might also be possible to make it a condition when giving licences to places of public amusement that uniform, whether worn by officers or men, should be admitted at reduced prices. These are all things to be considered before we reach the end of our tether and throw up the sponge and say we cannot get any more men without conscription. The Colonies are a field which is practically untouched. It is typical of the War Office that there is delay after delay, procrastination after procrastina-

tion, and no tangible or practical result as regards recruiting in the Colonies. For three years the question as regards Canada has been as far advanced as it is to-day. Another question is the provision of temperance rooms in barracks.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member must not dwell upon the question of recruits.

*MR. PIRIE: It is closely connected with the condition of life, and with the condition under which you treat men in the Army.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That is a detail of administration which should be raised in its proper place. All that is possible in this Vote is a general criticism of the War Office. In regard to recruiting and other matters—details such as that must be raised on their respective Votes.

*MR. PIRIE: My criticism is that the War Office has not provided these temperance rooms as it should have done. Pay alone will not attract a better class of men; there is something higher than that. It is absolutely deplorable that the nation does not get 75 per cent. value for the money spent on the Army. We ought never to rest content until we have the same competition to get into the ranks of the Army as there is at present to get into the commissioned ranks. That is a state of affairs which if proper lines were adopted should be achieved. So strongly do I feel upon these matters that in order to get a reply from the Under Secretary of State for War, and as a protest against the system by which boys are accepted as recruits under absolutely false ages, I will move a reduction of the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That a sum, not exceeding £248,200, be granted for the said service."—(Mr. Pirie.)

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): We are to-night dealing with a very serious question in a business-like way. Some Members seem inclined to blame the Government, as if they were entirely responsible for the present condition of things, which many of us are united in deplored. I do not think that is quite a fair line to take, although, perhaps, it is a necessary line in order to hang our arguments thereon. But the Government are free from blame

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for having in any way failed to do their best to carry out the system which they inherited, and which it would have taken a great deal of statesmanship to change at very short notice. The Government have an absolutely strong case in so far as they have done their level best to improve the conditions of life in the Army, and to make those conditions more nearly meet the requirements of the better class which it is desirable to attract to the service. The Government have had to do this under circumstances of exceptional difficulty. They have had to meet a condition of trade and competition such as, probably, no Government seeking recruits for the Army have ever had to face before. The conditions and inducements which would have been sufficient to fill the ranks of the Army in times of depression and bad trade are inadequate and unsatisfactory in times such as we have experienced during the past three or four years. I trust the Government will not necessarily defend too absolutely a condition of things which it may be impossible to defend in the long run. I should be sorry to think that they considered it necessary to wait to confess a failure until that failure had become a danger to the Army and to the country. We wish the intelligence and zeal which we recognise as being at the head of the Army Department of the State to be used in time to prevent disaster, and not to bolster up a condition of things which it may eventually be impossible to defend. There is a tendency on the part of all officials to think that their personal credit is concerned in backing up and defending that which they have been put to administer. The greater Statesman and Minister is the one who recognises when it is time to shift his ground from one condition of things to another. It may be that there is close upon us now an absolute necessity to change the system on which our Army is conducted, and we shall have to face the great problem of putting it on a different footing from that which it now occupies. Many of us think we are labouring under a great deal too much of the civilian element in the War Office. If it comes to a matter of economy, it would be possible to utilise the intelligence, education and zeal of officers to carry out the work of the War Office which is now done by highly-priced civilian clerks. People are apt to say that you cannot get the necessary intelligence and clerical power from

ordinary officers of the Army. But what are the facts? Whenever a bit of country is annexed to the Empire and a man is wanted to administer it economically, intelligently, and effectively, who is the chosen man? Not your highly-paid civilian clerk, but your young English subaltern with a free hand. You have in connection with the officers of the Army an enormous supply of men, absolutely well fitted to do this work, who, in conjunction with their retired pay, would be only too glad to fill these offices, and would fill them at least as well and probably better and more cheaply than they are filled now by the civilian representatives, whose absence from the War Office would conduce to the greater efficiency of the Army. In connection with the scheme suggested by the right hon. Gentleman, such schemes are taking hold of the minds of Members who think strongly on the subject. We feel that as things stand we are not in the position we ought to be in if there are to be placed upon us increasing responsibilities; the system as we have it now is not equal to the emergency. If we once acknowledge that, we must not complain if we see even startling changes made as the only possible salvation for the efficient maintenance of our Army in the future. My hon. friend should not be too zealous in defending that which now exists, but he should bring all his weight and authority to bear in the direction of making others recognise the possibility of a change being forced upon us at no distant date. But, while we make these criticisms, it would be just as well that those who read this Debate should recognise that although we wish to be a great deal stronger than we are, we are yet a great deal stronger than some people think, and that we have at the present moment ample power to put on board ship, and to use, if necessary, such a force as would very much astonish and startle some of those who think we are in a condition of weakness and unable to act rapidly and successfully.

MR. WYNDHAM: Although many Members wish to address the Committee, I think it is due to those who have already spoken that I should take some stock of the position to which we have arrived owing to the arguments which have been put forward. My hon. friend has begged me not to take too combative an attitude, nor to attempt to traverse every consideration which has been put

forward. I have never attempted to take up every glove which has been thrown down, and when Members assert that the question of finding sufficient recruits for the British Army is a difficult one, I do not feel that I am bound, in the position I occupy, to say it is an easy one. The problem with which we have to grapple is a far harder one than is presented to any of the great Continental nations, and if we fail—as in a measure we do fail—nobody ought to be surprised if we do not, by some royal road, solve the problem of occupying India, and casually such places as Crete and Egypt, while preserving garrisons abroad, fitting in with one complete scheme of Imperial defence. That is a problem which no one else has to tackle, but it is one with which we have to deal, and a very difficult one. I therefore feel that when the House goes into Committee on the Army Estimate we may very well take the view that we are in counsel together, and anxious to hear any suggestions that may be offered which are likely to facilitate us in the task we have to perform. But our experience is that we do not get any great amount of what I may call counsel. The hon. Member for North Aberdeen, who has gone the length of moving a reduction of the Vote, said he felt it his duty to tender advice, but while I do not wish to make light of his suggestions, they are considerations which have already occurred to a great many people. The War Office has been striving strenuously for years to raise the standard of decency and comfort in the Army.

*MR. PIRIE: I chiefly alluded to the refusal of the War Office to require production of birth certificates from recruits.

MR. WYNDHAM: I doubt whether any alteration in that direction would materially increase the number of recruits coming to the Army. Another part of his advice was that the officers ought to wear the uniform more. There is something to be said for that, but it has been felt that it is hardly in accordance with the spirit of the nation to make it obligatory upon men to walk about in uniform, and we should probably lose more than we gained by adopting that advice. The same remark applies to the suggestion that soldiers should be allowed to go to the theatre at half-price. But the hon. and gallant Member did make a very important suggestion. He said

that more should be done to tap the Colonies, and he almost denounced the Government for not having achieved more in the direction of entering into an understanding with Canada and the other colonies. There again I would ask the Committee to use their imagination, and to conceive what an elaborate process it must be by which the mother country, with vast accumulated wealth, could approach a new country, where there was no accumulated wealth, to explain to that colony that our Navy confers great benefits upon them, and then to ask the latter to enter into some arrangement for defence. What does that mean? It means that that colony has to adjust the new civilisation to the older, which must always be difficult. Any amount of diplomacy is necessary, for the thing must be put on its proper basis, which is that if any colony exhibits a great wish to take some portion of the burden of Empire the mother country should, as far as possible, modify its arrangements to meet the wishes of the colony. To go further than that would be folly, and to go even so far is a matter of infinite correspondence and negotiation. We have been in communication with Canada, and at this present moment we have arrived at the stage of having drawn up certain proposals which I hope we shall to-day or to-morrow transmit to Canada to invite their opinion upon. Clearly it would be impossible for me to indicate the nature of the proposals, but I can assure the hon. Member that there has been no slackness on our side, no want of appreciation of the aspirations to take some portion of the burden of Empire which have been put forward by Canada. I would refer to the speech of the hon. Member for West Belfast, the chief topic of which was that of decentralisation. He dwelt upon the Report of the Committee presided over by my hon. friend the present Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. I do not wish to minimise the importance of that Committee or its Report. I look upon the Report as a point of departure on a road along which I hope we may travel a great distance. But it is idle for hon. Members to expect that they can in a few months or a few years alter a system which has grown up primarily to meet the demands of the House of Commons. Unless the House is to adopt an attitude towards the administration of the Army

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profoundly different from its present attitude you cannot, to any very great extent, modify the system which at present exists. We must take that subject to heart, and think it over. For instance, we have decentralised contracts for wheat and forage, but this fact does not prevent one hon. Member after another asking my hon. friend the Financial Secretary for War why the general officer gives a contract to one man rather than to another. Do hon. Members not realise that when such a question is asked the Department has to centralise over again, for it has to ask the general officer for his reasons, and then those reasons have to be given to the House of Commons? It is, therefore, absurd to talk of decentralisation unless you are prepared to run the risks involved in that principle. Although nobody is more anxious than I am to see more responsibility cast on the general officers, still I am quite sure that this House has quite as much to do as the War Office if we are to travel very fast along that road. I do not wish, for the reasons I have stated, to raise any exaggerated hopes that you are going in a few months to alter a system which has grown up with this nation, or that the nation is going to relax its control of the purse in military matters. I now come to the next important topic in the speech of the hon. Member for West Belfast. Has there been any substantial increase in the Army? Bringing the figures up to date, I find that at the 1st of July the numbers of the Regular Army, Militia, and Reserve were 411,080, so that there has been an appreciable increase. I am glad to say that that increase is due almost entirely, as I ventured to prophesy earlier in the year, to the filling up of the Reserve. A good deal of criticism was directed earlier in the year, and again to-night, against the War Office on the ground that we have got these men for the Army simply by taking them from the Reserve. It is perfectly true, but we have again filled up the ranks of the Reserve to 82,000 men. The third topic dealt with in the speech of the hon. Member for West Belfast, and which, again, is one which was taken up by many who have taken part in the Debate, was with reference to the ballot for the Militia. I have a bone to pick with the hon. Member for West Belfast for the almost vehement language in which he referred to this matter, and for the very serious way in which he misrepresented the speech of my noble friend

the Secretary of State for War in introducing the Militia Bill in another place. He paraphrased the speech of my noble friend in these words—that any day we might have to resort to conscription. No greater travesty of the speech my noble friend did make could be imagined. One-third of that speech was devoted to pouring buckets of cold water upon the idea that we were within measurable distance of conscription. The difficulty before us is that we have either to get rid of an antiquated system or bring it up to date. That has been done, and that is all that has been done. The immediate problem is to find garrisons for India, Egypt, and at this moment an augmented garrison for South Africa. Then there is the permanent problem of finding garrisons for those places which the War Office are informed, by the united counsel of their naval and military experts, ought to be occupied as naval bases and coaling-stations. To do that requires at least 19 white battalions and 12 native battalions abroad, for the mere routine work of sentry-go round the world. When 75 infantry battalions are required at home, 17½ battalions to form what I may call the scheme of defence, and 60½ battalions to occupy India and other countries, I ask the right hon. Baronet whether he really thinks his alternative plan would solve the problem. The only alternative which has been put before the Committee is the plan of the hon. Baronet that we should have something like a Swiss militia. We shall never get back to the roster which has been the usual course of soldiering for the British officers and men for over 100 years, once we abandon the present system. Many a sanguine administrator, faced with the system which has obtained for many years, has approached it in the full belief that he was going to change it; but one Minister of experience after another has felt himself bound in the long run to support it.

*SIR J. COLOMB: Of course, at this hour of the night I do not desire to make a very long speech, but I regard it as extremely unfortunate that the Admiralty Vote and the War Office Vote, involving as they do such important questions of naval and military policy, which by the procedure of the House must be treated separately, should both be taken in a single evening, when they cannot be adequately discussed. In the first place, I think there is a great and grow-

ing opinion in this House that it is a misappropriation of the mobile forces of the Army to lock them up behind works at naval bases. Of course any change can only be carried out very gradually. You must begin with the smaller places, and then extend the experiment. The Committee are aware that an experiment was tried by the late Government on these very lines, and I propose to reduce the salary of the Secretary for War by £2,000, because he has not allowed the experiment to be fairly tried. I will mention the specific case. In 1893, when the Admiralty and the War Office began to take this question of garrisons into serious consideration, the need was recognised of establishing a naval base at Esquimalt, a port in the Pacific, and the question arose as to how that naval base was to be locally guarded. I do not know the inner workings of the War Office and the Admiralty at the time, but at all events, the result was that the War Office wisely departed from the policy of isolating and breaking up the Army for this work. Let us see what happened. A small garrison of Royal Marine Artillery was sent to Esquimalt, and the whole charge and command of the garrison and defence was handed over to a major of the Marine Artillery. But what happened? From the very first there was delay and obstruction, presumably on the part of the Royal Engineers' department at the War Office, and for three years no part of the submarine stores and appliances were allowed to be sent. The authorities at the War Office had sent out previously a subordinate staff, but it was represented by the officer commanding the Marine Artillery that these men were needlessly expensive; and he consequently suggested that the expensive staff should be taken away, and three extra corporals of the Marine Artillery, with a little special training, sent to take their place. But not a bit of it. For four years the Marine Artillery officer was in command, things worked with perfect smoothness, and no trouble whatever arose, except that the Royal Engineers withheld the submarine stores. Then the War Office sent out an officer of the Royal Engineers. And what is the next step? The next step was an extraordinary one. It was this—the Marine Artillery garrison on the Pacific was taken from under the command of the Admiral in the Pacific, and put under the authority of the general at

Halifax on the Atlantic. The next step is one that is contrary to the interest of the public service—authorising a junior Engineer officer to ignore his commanding officer, by sending his reports straight to the general. Would such a thing be tolerated under any circumstances anywhere else? The Under Secretary for War knows it would not. The next step is to send a costly colonel of Engineers to take command of this garrison. But he does not remain there long; he was, however, a warming-pan to engineer this arrangement. The final step was to give to the junior Engineer Officer an extra special rank—the War Minister giving local rank of lieutenant-colonel to a junior Engineer. The whole plan has therefore been broken down, and you will be told that you cannot deal with naval bases in this way, and that you must have your mobile army paralysed because you tried the experiment of Marine Artillery and it failed. That failure has been manipulated by the wire-pulling of the Royal Engineer Department. The first information the House had of the matter was on 12th May, when the Under Secretary for War was asked by the hon. Member for Kincardineshire how it was that an officer of one branch of the service, the Royal Marine Artillery, contrary to the Queen's Regulations and Orders to the Army, was superseded by an order from the War Office conferring local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel upon a junior officer of Royal Engineers. This was the reason given by the War Office for promoting by local rank a junior Engineer over the head of his Commanding Officer, of the Royal Marine Artillery, trying an experiment of great national importance:

"While important building works, necessitating heavy expenditure of public money, are under construction, it is desirable that the senior officer should, as heretofore, belong to the Royal Engineers. In order to effect that object, local rank was conferred on"

a junior Engineer officer. I then put this question on the 27th June: Would the Under Secretary of State for War

"state the names of the naval bases and coaling stations at which officers of other arms of the Service previously in command had been superseded in that command by conferring upon the officers of Royal Engineers, junior to them, local rank, on the ground that important building works necessitated heavy expenditure of public money are under consideration, and that the senior officer should therefore belong to the Royal Engineers; and,

further, to state to what arms of the Service the officers thus superseded in command at each place respectively belonged."

I thereupon got a curtain lecture from my hon. friend. He said :

" May I point out that questions involving considerable research on the part of the military staff at the War Office can be answered on the day of their first appearance on the Paper only by withdrawing a number of officers from the work upon which they are engaged."

What I asked was simply in how many cases junior Royal Engineers in garrisons had been given local rank to supersede the commanding officer belonging to another arm of the Service. Everybody at the War Office knew perfectly well that there was no other case at all. When the hon. Gentleman did answer the question, what did his reply come to ?

" There is no case other than that at Esquimalt. The reasons for the action then taken were explained in my answer of the 12th May to the hon. Member for Kincardineshire."

I then asked on the 3rd July :

" When the Secretary of War decided that at places where important building works, necessitating heavy expenditure of public money, are under consideration, it is desirable that the senior officer should belong to the Royal Engineers."

That was one question. The next is

" Whether, before such decision was arrived at, the probable effects of thus securing for the officer charged with advising and supervising expenditure absolute freedom from local supervision and control by independent military authority on the spot was fully considered. And whether it is intended to apply this rule to all places, such as Bermuda, Jamaica, and Mauritius, named in the Schedule of the Military Works Bill, by conferring on the Royal Engineer officer at each of those stations local rank superior to his present commanding officer, as has already been done at Esquimalt under this rule."

The Under-Secretary replied :—

" The appointment of 'this major,' with local rank was considered in all its bearings. My reply of the 12th May did not cite a rule."

But it was given as a rule, an at all events most explicitly stated as the reason.

MR. WYNDHAM : My hon. and gallant friend has brought the thing up over and over again.

*SIR J. COLOMB : I am going to bring it up again and again.

MR. WYNDHAM made a remark which was inaudible in the Reporters' Gallery.

*SIR J. COLOMB : I leave it to the common-sense of those who can read English to understand what the answers were. The principle of the War Office is that a little mystery is very valuable, and that is a principle that I object to. I then asked :

" Does the rule apply only to Esquimalt ? " to which the reply was, " It is not a rule. What I said was that at Esquimalt a Royal Engineer officer has heretofore been in command, and he is to be succeeded by another." But the Committee will see at once that the first and only reason given for the supersession was—that important military works were in contemplation involving large expenditure, and therefore it was desirable to appoint a Royal Engineer. Finally, on the 20th July, I asked this question. You will note that the excuse of public expenditure and so on disappears, and it had now become simply a question of the meaning of the word 'heretofore.' I therefore put this question to the Under Secretary :

" Whether, before conferring local rank on a junior officer of Royal Engineers, serving in garrison at Esquimalt, thereby putting him over the head of his senior belonging to another arm of the Service, the Secretary of State for War was made aware of the fact that during the preceding period of nearly five years, dating from the establishment of the garrison, the command was held only for an interval of about one year by a Royal Engineer officer, and whether he adhered to his statement that the local rank in question was conferred because a Royal Engineer had heretofore been in command ; and if so, whether the Secretary of State for War proposed in future to exclude officers of other arms of the Service from command of garrisons at Esquimalt and elsewhere, by conferring local rank on junior Royal Engineer officers in such garrisons whenever it could be shown that a Royal Engineer officer had, by the accident of relative seniority, once previously held the command ? "

He answers :

" The length of time during which this Lieutenant-Colonel commanded at Esquimalt in no way influenced the selection of Major So-and-So in that command. He was selected because it was considered desirable that the command should be held by an officer of Royal Engineers."

That is the point I had been driving at all the way, and " heretofore " disappears:

" There is no rule, and future cases will be judged on their merits."

I then asked a further question, to which the answer was :

" That important works were being constructed at Esquimalt, and for that reason it

was felt necessary that an Engineer officer should be in command."

My point is this: "If you had made up your mind, as a matter of policy, that Esquimalt is to be a Royal Engineer command, why did you not honestly say so, and send an officer of Royal Engineers superior in regular rank to the officer of Royal Marine Artillery already in command?" I understand the hon. Member to say that there was difficulty in finding Engineer officers. Why there are 200 Royal Engineer officers available for service senior to the Marine Artilleryman. There are 618 Engineer officers not appropriated in the Estimates to any particular service. I trust the House will not think I have unduly trespassed upon time, even at this late hour, in showing that if we are told this experiment has failed it is the blundering of the War Office into the Royal Engineer net that has caused it deliberately to act in a way best calculated to cause the experiment to fail.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I need hardly say I am perfectly incompetent to follow my hon. and gallant friend in the survey he has made with so much energy—energy which must command admiration, considering the hour and the temperature. But I can assure my hon. and gallant friend that if there be any blame for what he regards as the abuse of the employment of marines in garrison at coaling stations throughout the world, I do not think the War Office ought to be attacked, because I am perfectly convinced from what I know of the opinions of the Secretary of State for War and of the other administrators at the War Office on this subject that they would regard nothing as a greater relief than to have this onerous charge transferred from their service to the service with which my hon. and gallant friend claims some connection.

*SIR J. COLOMB: The policy of the War Office points in that direction; they wished to adopt that policy. All my speech was to show that owing to the bad system of the War Office things were being engineered by subordinate departments in the War Office to defeat the policy which War Ministers wished to adopt.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Even if the War Office was as wicked and incompetent as my friend thinks, I can assure

Sir J. Colomb.

him it would not be possible without obtaining the consent of the Admiralty to substitute marines for soldiers in the way suggested. That is a particular policy on which my hon. friend has a very strong view. I did not, however, rise to prolong the discussion, it is my earnest desire to see it brought to a rapid termination. I do not think the House should be asked to sit longer to discuss these Estimates to-night. Members have had a severe week, and the temperature is not very well adapted to any sort of discussion, least of all to a discussion of this nature. I would, if I might, ask the House to give us this Vote. I think it would be a great advantage that we should get it. If that is done, I will move to report progress, and leave the matter as it is. I would point out that the order in which the Votes come on is not a matter which the Government desire to control; we have every desire to meet the general convenience of the House. The House has had five days and nights for the discussion of the Army Estimates, and I think that is a very full portion of the total time allowed for the Estimates. If that time has been inconveniently allotted between different Army Votes I am sorry, but I do not think the Government are to blame in the matter. With that explanation I hope we shall be permitted to take this Vote, and then to report progress and adjourn.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I do not intend to raise any objection to what the right hon. Gentleman proposes, but I presume that the other Votes on the Army Estimates will fall in the general sweep at the end of the session. If that is so, there is one point as to which I think an explicit engagement was made—viz., the Ordnance Vote. There has been a very vital change in the management of the Ordnance factories, and, if my memory serves me, I think that I myself, and probably others joined with me, asked on the Supplemental Estimates at an early period of the session whether an explanation would be made of the causes which had led to that material change, and I was told that a full opportunity would be given for making that explanation on the Ordnance Vote. I think it amounts to an undertaking, and there has been really no public explanation whatever of the change.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The promise was made, I suppose, by the Under-Secretary, and that probably is the reason it escaped my memory. I should be glad to consult through the ordinary channels on the subject, and make the very best arrangement I can for finding time to discuss the particulars of the Ordnance Vote which the right hon. Gentleman desires, and to have some explanation offered. If there is any desire on the part of the House to go on now I should not resist it, but I thought I was meeting the general view, and that the House did not want to sit any longer to-night.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I have no desire to go on to-night, but I thought the public outside the House as well as Members inside were really entitled to have an explanation publicly and formally given of the causes which led to this fundamental change.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I now move to report progress.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(Mr. Balfour.)

MR. DILLON: We are now having an exemplification of the effects of the new rule in depriving us of a fair opportunity of discussing these matters. I myself had some very important questions to raise on this Vote, but there will now be no further opportunity. This being the 20th of the days allotted to Supply, and the 21st being given to the Colonial Office Vote, no further opposition can be given for discussing either this or any other important Vote.

COLONEL BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye): No discussion will be possible on the very large subjects of the Volunteers and of the Militia, in both of which the public take a very large interest. There is also the subject of the Ordnance Vote, referred to by the right hon. Gentleman opposite, on which it will be most necessary to have a discussion. I must enter my protest against the new arrangement by which such subjects are shut out from discussion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have already said that five nights have been spent on

the Army Estimates. I do not know if the Government is to blame for the order in which the Votes are taken; I think they were arranged to suit the convenience of the House. When a Vote is started, it is extremely difficult—almost impossible—for the Government to regulate exactly the time it is to take. That must be left to the discretion of Members. I do not think my hon. friend would suggest that more than five days should be given to the Army Estimates.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I understood that we were not allowed to discuss on the War Office Vote any matter which was dealt with in a separate Vote, although on previous occasions, both on the Admiralty Vote and the War Office Vote, subjects might be generally discussed. To-night you did make the ruling that no subjects should be discussed on these Votes which could be discussed on any other.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not know whether I ought to go back on a former ruling, but for the information of the Committee I may say that the ruling was one which has obtained for a great number of years—viz., that where there is a special Vote dealing with a special subject that is the proper place to discuss that special subject. In the case of the Votes of the Admiralty or of the War Office, discussion is allowable so long as it is on the general policy. But it has been ruled that where there is a special Vote dealing with the question of the Volunteers or the Militia, or any other special matter, questions relating to those matters must be raised on those special Votes.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): This arrangement does exclude certain questions which some of us wished to raise, and I shall not consent to the motion to report progress unless there is some undertaking that some short opportunity will be given for the discussion of those subjects.

MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): While I might regard five days given to the Army Estimates as a great deal in an ordinary year, this year, when the expenditure on the War Office and the Army has been so enormously increased,

five days is not very much. It is really this enormous expenditure and one or two points of policy which were started last year and have never been thoroughly discussed which have naturally caused a great deal of discussion; and though five days is a long time

in an ordinary year, I do not think anybody can call it a long time this year.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 68; Noes, 6. (Division List, No. 291.)

AYES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manc'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hn Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beresford, Lord Charles
Bethell, Commander
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A Montagu
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cranborne, Viscount
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of

Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Douglas-Pennant, Hon. E. S. Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd Ferguson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r) Fisher, William Hayes Goddard, Daniel Ford Goldsworthy, Major-General Gretton, John Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W. Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-Horniman, Frederick John Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton Johnston, William (Belfast) Kemp, George Kenyon, James Kenyon-Slaney, Col. William Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn) Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.) Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land) Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry) Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool Lorne, Marquis of

Lucas-Shadwell, William Macartney, W. G. Ellison Macdona, John Cumming Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F. Middlemore, J. Throgmorton More, R. Jasper (Shropshire) Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute) Nicol, Donald Ninian Platt-Higgins, Frederick Purvis, Robert Robertson, Herbert (Hackney) Royds, Clement Molynieux Russell, Gen. F. S. (Chelethen'm) Russell, T. W. (Tyrone) Seely, Charles Hilton Stanley, Lord (Lancs.) Valentia, Viscount Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset) Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.) Wyndham, George Young, Commander (Berka, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Caldwell, James
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.

Macaleese, Daniel
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Weir, James Galloway

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Channing and Mr. Pirie.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also report progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

Deputy Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr.

House adjourned accordingly at five minutes after One of the clock till Monday next.

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TO THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[AUTHORISED EDITION].

NINTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1899.

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EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT AND ABBREVIATIONS.

Bills : Read First, Second, or Third Time = 1R., 2R., 3R. [c.] = Commons. [L.] = Lords.
Amendt. = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *As.* = Answers.
Com. = Committee. *Con.* = Consideration. *Rep.* = Report. *S.* = Debate in Committee of Supply. Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote. Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee. The abbreviation "S" has been adopted as explanation under the subjects.

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Tithe Rent-charge [Ireland] Bill, <i>July 18, 1139.</i>	Enfield Small Arms Factory—Case of H. Horner <i>Q.</i> Capt. Bowles; <i>A.</i> Mr. Wyndham, <i>July 20, 1168.</i>
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Under Secretary—Mr. G. Wyndham.

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Bait, Scarcity of—*Debate in Com. of Supply, July 14*, 889.

Cruisers—Crews' Leave of Absence, etc.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 11, 480; *S. July 14*, 899, 913, 944, 950.

Foreign Trawlers in Moray Firth, etc., *Debate in Com. of Supply, July 14*, 893.

Harbour Accommodation, *July 14*, 898.

Local District Committees, Constitution of, *S. July 14*, 888, 894, 901.

Salmon Fisheries, Inspector's Salary, *S. July 14*, 953.

Territorial Limit, Extension of, *S. July 14*, 891, 896, 900, 908.

Sea Fisheries, *See that Title.*

Trawling, *See that Title.*

Trout-fishing Annual Close Time [Scotland] Bill, *See that Title.*

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Abolition of, proposed, *S. July 14*, 895, 896, 900.

Report presented, *July 6*, 10; *July 7*, 140.

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Fishguard Water and Gas Bill

l. Royal Assent, July 13, 662.

Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill

*l. Rep. * July 13*, 664.

*3R. * July 18*, 1122.

FITZMAURICE, LORD E. [Wilts, Cricklade]

Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, *Com.*, *July 13*, 789.

FLANNERY, SIR F. [Yorkshire, Shipley]

Engineering Officers in the Navy—Question ruled out of Order, *July 21*, 1603.

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FLANNERY, SIR F.—*cont.*Explosives, Storage of, *July 21*, 1604.Lead Poisoning, *July 7*, 235.Terrible, H.M.S.—Boiler Trials, *July 21*, 1562.Todmorden Boys, Conviction of—Excessive sentence, *July 18*, 1173; *July 20*, 1376.

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Return ordered [Sir C. Dilke], *July 21*, 1536.

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Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. Brodrick, *July 7*, 171.

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FLYNN, MR. J. C. [Cork, N.]

Austral Cycle Agency, Ltd.—Winding-up, etc., *July 6*, 22.Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society—Cork Military Canteen Contract, *July 6*, 12; *July 17*, 993.Gibraltar Military Canteen Contracts, *July 20*, 1364.Liquor Licensing Laws Commission Report—"Daily News" Premature Publication, *July 7*, 173.Maryborough Prison Works—Stonecutters' Lock-out, *July 20*, 1385.Naval Stores, Condemned, *July 11*, 466.Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, Com., *July 13*, 834.

FOOD INSPECTORS, IRELAND, OFFICE OF

Q. Capt. Donelan; A. Mr. Atkinson, *July 20*, 1383.

FOOD STUFFS, COLOURING, ETC., ENQUIRY

Q. Mr. Hedderwick; A. Mr. Chaplin, *July 13*, 696.

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Straw Supplies for Aldershot—Foreign Straw

Qs. Mr. Perks, Capt. Donelan; As. Mr. J. P. Williams, *July 11*, 468.

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Secretary of State—Marquess of Salisbury
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China, Japan, and Corea [Supreme Court]
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FOSTER, SIR W. [Derbyshire, Ilkeston]

Justice, Administration of, in Scotland—Prosecution of Dr. Lamont, *July 14*, 924, 939.Lead and Phosphorus Poisoning, *July 7*, 244.Plague in Persia and Turkey, Precautions against, *July 17*, 997.Portslade Urban District Council, Charges against, *July 11*, 477.Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, Com., *July 17*, 1058, 1077, 1081; *July 18*, 1190, 1214, 1228, 1246, 1256, 1264; *July 19*, 1328.Steeple Morden Recreation Ground—County Council Order, *July 13*, 696.Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill—Discontinued Grants, *July 11*, 475.

FOWLER, RT. HON. SIR H. H. [Northampton]

Ranjitsingji, Prince, Claims of, to the Gadi of Nowanagar, *July 17*, 997.Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, Com., *July 10*, 343, 344.

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Anglo-French African Convention—Delimitation of the West of the Niger, Copy presented, *July 21*, 1500, 1533.

Toulon Magazine Explosion, See that Title.

Tunis, French Exports, See Title Tunis.

Waima Incident—See that Title.

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Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 14*, 882.Natal, British Indians in
Qs. Mr. Dillon, Mr. Davitt; As. Mr. J. Chamberlain *July 20*, 1370.

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FRESHWATER FISHERIES [ENGLAND AND WALES], Report presented, *July 6*, 3, 8.

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l. Royal Assent, *July 13*, 662.

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Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, *July 6*, 29; Notice of Motion [Sir J. Rankin], *July 18*, 1268.

FRUIT STEAMERS FOR THE WEST INDIES
Q. Mr. Lawrence; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 6, 17.

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c. Con. July 10, 298.
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 l. Commons Amendts., July 18, 1121.*

Fylde Water Board Bill
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Gainsborough Urban District Council [Gas] Bill
l. Royal Assent, July 13, 662.

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Letterfrack Letter Deliveries
Q. Mr. O'Malley; A. Mr. Hanbury, July 21, 1550.

Queen's College, Report presented, *July 20, 1348, 1359.*

Typhus Fever in
Q. Mr. O'Malley; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 6, 33.

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 3R.* July 17, 988.*

Gas Orders Confirmation [No. 2] Bill
c. 2R. July 18, 1166.*

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill
c. Rep. July 14, 866.
 3R.* July 17, 988.*

GEDGE, MR. S. [WALSALL]

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, *Con., July 20, 1475.*

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Q. Mr. T. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Ritchie, July 20, 1378.

GERMANY—Trade Report presented, *July 10, 276.*

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 Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, *Com., July 13, 733.*

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Q. Mr. Stevenson; A. Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 684.

Military Canteen Contract—Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society.
Q. Mr. Flynn; A. Mr. J. P. Williams, July 20, 1364.

GILES, MR. C. T. [Cambridge, Wisbech]

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Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Sir M. Hicks-Beach, July 10, 310.

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 Drinking Troughs as Source of infection
Qs. Sir C. Cameron, Col. Lockwood, Mr. T. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Long, July 20, 1380.

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Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 13, 702.

Glasgow Corporation [Gas and Water] Bill
c. Con. July 10, 298.
 3R.* July 13, 678.
 l. Commons Amendts., July 17, 957.*

Glasgow Corporation [Tramways, etc.] Bill
c. Con. July 10, 298.
 3R.* July 13, 678.
 l. Commons Amendts., July 18, 1121.*

Glasgow and South Western Railway Bill
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Q. Mr. M'Ghee; A. Mr. Hanbury, July 11, 478.

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Q. Mr. Stephens; A. Mr. Long, July 21, 1545.

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l. Rep. from Select Committee, July 20, 1346.

GODDARD, MR. D. F. [Ipswich]

Local Government Board—Position of Sir H. Owen, *July 13, 697.*

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TROVE AND THE BRITISH MUSEUM
Q. Sir T. Esmonde; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 17, 1012.

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Goole Urban District Council Bill

- l. Rep. from Select Com., July 7, 138.
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c. Lords Amendts., July 20, 1357.*

Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum Bill

- l. 1R.* July 11, 429.
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c. 1R.* July 20, 1391.*

Gorst, Sir J. E.—Vice-President, Council for Education [Cambridge University]

Fairfield Road, Bristol, Higher Grade School and the Science and Art Department, *July 6, 24.*

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Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J.—First Lord of the Admiralty [St. George's, Hanover Square]

Armour Plating, Supply of, for Naval Ships, *July 21, 1587.*

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Russian Naval Programme, *July 21, 1585.*

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Soudan, Naval Officers in—Promotion and Retirement, *July 17, 990.*

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Sugar for the Navy, Preference to Colonial grown and British refined Sugar, *July 21, 1538.*

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- c. Lords Amendts., July 7, 160.
l. Royal Assent, July 13, 663.*

Great Eastern Railway [General Powers] Bill

- c. 2R.* July 10, 298.
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Great Grimsby Street Tramways Bill

- c. Com.* July 7, 160.
3R.* July 11, 463.
l. Commons Amendts., July 14, 861.*

Great Northern Railway Bill

- c. Rep.* July 14, 867.*

Great Northern and Strand Railway Bill

- l. Rep.* July 14, 861.
3R.* July 21, 1499.*

Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill

- c. Rep. from Select Com., July 21, 1532.*

Great Western Railway Bill

- l. Rep.* July 13, 664.
3R.* July 18, 1122.*

Great Western and Great Central Railway Companies Bill

- l. Rep. from Select Com., July 18, 1121.
3R.* July 21, 1499.*

Great Yarmouth Corporation Bill

*c. Com.** *July 10*, 298.
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Great Yarmouth Pier Bill

*c. 3R.** *July 7*, 160.
l. Commons Amendts., *July 10*, 275.
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Great Yarmouth Water Bill

*c. Rep.** *July 20*, 1358.

GREENWICH AGE PENSION FUND, Raising discussion on the Admiralty Vote, *S.*, *July 21*, 1605.**GREENWICH HOSPITAL**

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*c. Com.** *July 12*, 585.
*3R.** *July 17*, 987.
l. Commons Amendts., *July 20*, 1346.

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Q. Sir J. Fergusson; *A. Mr. J. P. Williams*, *July 21*, 1552.

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Q. Mr. MacNeill; *A. Mr. A. J. Balfour*, *July 6*, 38.

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l. Royal Assent, *July 13*, 662.

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Q. Mr. Goddard; *A. Mr. T. W. Russell*, *July 18*, 1169.

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Grenadier Guards, Loss of Canteen Stores in the Nile—Compensation.

Q. Sir J. Fergusson; *A. Mr. J. P. Williams*, *July 21*, 1552.

GULL, SIR C. [Devonshire, Barnstaple]

Indian Warrant Officers' Grievances, *July 14*, 870.

GUN PRACTICE IN THE NAVY—Prize-firing Returns

O. Sir J. Colomb, *July 21*, 1607.

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Q. Mr. Dillon; *A. Mr. Wyndham*, *July 13*, 689.

GUNTER, COL. R. [Yorkshire, W. R., Barkston Ash]

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GURDON, SIR W. B. [Norfolk, W.]

Fisheries, Scotland—Foreign Trawlers, etc., *July 14*, 897.

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HALDANE, MR. R. B. [Haddington]

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Hampstead Church [Emmanuel, West End] Bill

1. Royal Assent, July 13, 662.

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Q. Capt. Norton; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, July 18, 1173.

HANWELL BARRACK SCHOOLEstablishment of Printing Office proposed
Q. Mr. Hazell; A. Mr. Chaplin, July 13, 695.**HARCOURT, RT. HON. SIR. W. G. V. [Monmouthshire, W.]**

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HARDY, MR. L. [Kent, Ashford]

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Barrakur Iron Company and the Indian Government, July 20, 1365.

Navy—Manning of Ships, Recruiting in Manufacturing Districts, Nomination Barrier etc., July 21, 1609.

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HASLAR HOSPITAL, Appointment of Deputy Inspector-General,
Q. Capt. Norton; A. Mr. Goschen, July 18, 681.

Hastings Harbour Bill
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l. Royal Assent, July 18, 662.

HAZELL, MR. W. [Leicester]
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Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, Com., July 18, 749.

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Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 10, 305.

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Qs. Capt. Sinclair, Mr. Hedderwick; As. Mr. Wyndham, July 14, 869.

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Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 14, 880.

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HOBHOUSE, MR. H. [Somerset, E.]

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HOGAN, MR. J. F. [Tipperary, Mid]

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Qs. Mr. Johnston, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Young, Mr. Davitt; As. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 20, 1384.

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HOULDsworth, SIR W. [Manchester, N.W.]

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 visional Order [Borrow Stounness]
 Bill**

l. Royal Assent, July 13, 661.

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c. Rep. July 14, 867.
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HUMPHREYS-OWEN, MR. A. C. [Montgomery]

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, *Con., July 18,*
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*l. Rep.** *July 13*, 861.
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*3R.** *July 18*, 1122.

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*3R.** *July 13*, 678.

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l. Royal Assent, July 13, 662.

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East London, Attacks on Medical Men—Police Protection

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l. Com., July 6, 4.

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Q. Mr. Trevelyan; A. Mr. Chaplin, July 17, 1003.

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Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 7, 179; July 10, 310; July 21, 1544.

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Qs. Admiral Field, Mr. T. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Goschen, July 7, 167.

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2R.* July 18, 1166.**POST OFFICE**

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; A. Mr. Hanbury, July 17, 1007.

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Q. Mr. O'Malley; A. Mr. Hanbury, July 21, 1550.

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Q. Mr. Maddison; A. Mr. Hanbury, July 11, 479.

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Q. Mr. Steadman; A. Mr. Hanbury, July 14, 878.

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Ilkeston Postmen's Grievances

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Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, July 7, 176.

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Q. Mr. J. P. Smith; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, July 14, 884.

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PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE [SCOTLAND] BILL

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Q. Dr. Farquharson; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, July 11, 481; *Q.* Mr. J. E. Ellis; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 13, 708; *Qs.* Mr. Buchanan, Dr. Clark, Mr. Courtney, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. T. G. Bowles; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 20, 1386.

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Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 20, 1386.

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Q. Mr. Maclean; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 13*, 691.**QUEEN'S COLLEGES, IRELAND**Belfast, Appointment of President—Presbyterian claim
Q. Mr. Pinkerton; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 6*, 34.Cork, Report presented, *July 21*, 1500, 1533.Galway, Report presented, *July 20*, 1348, 1359.**RAILWAY COMMISSION, S.**, *July 7*, 190, 191.**RAILWAY COMPANIES** — Return presented, *July 17*, 958, 989.**RAILWAYS**Bills relating to, *See their Titles*.Cockett Tunnel Accident—Inquiry
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Q. Mr. Maddison; A. Mr. Ritchie, *July 11*, 475.Light Railways, *See that Title*.Running Powers—Sectional Maps
Q. Mr. Tomlinson; A. Mr. Long, *July 13*, 699.Time-tables, Delay in Publication
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Qs. Lord C. Beresford, Mr. J. Lowther;
As. Mr. Ritchie, *July 21*, 1541.Open Air Meetings, *See Local Government Provisional Orders* [No. 15] Bill.**RANDELL, MR. D. [Glamorgan, Gower]**Cockett Tunnel Accident Inquiry, *July 20*, 1379.**RANJITSINGJI, PRINCE**—Claims to the Gadi of NowanagarOs. Sir S. King, Mr. Maclean, Sir H. Fowler, Mr. Speaker, *July 17*, 996.**RANKIN, SIR J. [Herefordshire, Leominster]**Overtime Employment of Women in Washing Bottles, *July 17*, 1021.**RASCH, MAJOR F. C. [Essex, S.E.]**Army—Magistrates advising Released Prisoners to Enlist—Case at Worthing, *July 13*, 685.Military Works Bill, 2R., *July 6*, 114.Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, 3R., *July 20*, 1434.**RATES**, *See Local Taxation*.**READING**—Open Air Meetings, *See Local Government Provisional Orders* [No. 15] Bill.**RECORDS OF NOT SUFFICIENT VALUE TO JUSTIFY PRESERVATION**—War Department presented, *July 6*, 9; *July 7*, 140.**RECREATION GROUND, STEEPLE MORDEN**—County Council OrderQ. Sir W. Foster; A. Mr. Chaplin, *July 13*, 696.**RECRUITING**, *See Army*.**RED SEA**Lighthouses, Construction of, Egyptian Lighthouse Revenue, etc.
Q. Sir T. Sutherland; A. Mr. Brodrick, *July 20*, 1368.

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Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. Brodrick, *July 17*, 995.**Redditch Gas Bill**1. Rep.* *July 11*, 425.
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Reformatory Schools Amendment Bill*i. Royal Assent, July 13, 661.***REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS****Ireland**

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*Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 7, 181.***Scotland**Education under English Code, *S., July 7, 214.*

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*Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, July 13, 700.*Training Ships, System of Management, etc., *S., July 7, 217.*Vote for, *July 7, 214; July 17, 1117.***REGIMENTAL UNIFORMS, See Uniforms.****REGISTRATION OF LAND**Return ordered [Mr. H. D. Greene] *July 7, 182.*Vote for, *July 7, 192; July 17, 1116.***REGULATION OF RAILWAYS BILL**Petitions, *July 7, 161.***Renfrew Burgh and Harbour Extension Bills***c. Rep. * July 20, 1390.***REPRESENTATIVE PEERS FOR IRELAND**Right to Vote for—Marquess of Headfort's Petition, *July 21, 1497.***REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES, etc., Premature Publication of***Os. Mr. J. A. Pease, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Paulton, July 17, 1013.*

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Rhondda Urban District Council Bill*i. Royal Assent, July 13, 662.***RHYL OPEN-AIR MEETINGS—See Local Government Provisional Order [No. 15] Bill.****RIBBLESDALE, LORD**Commons and Open Spaces Bill, *Com., July 10, 281.*Seats for Shop Assistants Bill, *Com.—Extending Provisions to Scotland, July 13, 666, 672.***RICHARDSON, FRANCES H., CASE OF***Q. Mr. Mellor; A. Sir J. Gorst, July 20, 1382.***RIDLEY, RT. HON. SIR M. W.—Secretary of State for the Home Department [Lancs, Blackpool]**Ansell, Mary, Case of, *July 13, 699; July 17, 1002; July 18, 1171.*Bail Regulations—Reg. v. Ryle, *July 13, 701.*Barrel Organs in Streets, Cradles attached to, *July 13, 701.*Burial Grounds—Legislation, *July 13, 701; July 17, 1001.*Cammell's Works Fatality, Sheffield—Locomotives in Factories, *July 20, 1377.*Chesterfield Vaccination Prosecutions, *July 6, 28.*Chipping Campden, Open-air Preaching Prosecution, *July 11, 476.*Convicts, Mental Condition of—Medical Evidence, *July 21, 1546.*Debt, Imprisonment for, *July 7, 199, 201.*Fruit Preserving Factories—Overtime Employment of Women in Washing Bottles, *July 6, 29.*Juvenile Offenders, Treatment of, *July 13, 700.*Lead Poisoning, *July 6, 31; July 7, 258.*Liquor Licensing Laws Commission Report—"Daily News" Publication, *July 7, 173.*Ludlow Vaccination Prosecution, *July 7, 172.*Marlow Vaccination Prosecutions, *July 10, 312.*Medical Men, Attacks on, in East London—Police Protection, *July 10, 311.*Metropolitan Police [Salaries] Bill, *1.R., July 6, 42.*Metropolitan Police [Salaries] [No. 2] Bill—Financial Resolution, *July 17, 1118, 1119.*Paterson v. Donegal Fishing Company, Appeal under Factories Act—Statutory Notice, *July 6, 30; July 20, 1377.*Phosphorus Poisoning, *July 7, 258.*Police Court Perjury, *July 6, 30.*Prison Warders, etc., Grievances, *July 7, 208, 212.***Prisoners**Detention before Trial, *July 18, 1172.*
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*Royal Assent, July 13, 663.***ST. PANCRAS, EAST DIVISION**—New Member sworn, *July 13, 710.*

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Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 10, 305.

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill*c. Con., July 17, 1039; July 18, 1177; July 19, 1304; July 20, 1445.***SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL***Qs. Mr. Provand, Mr. Lambert, Sir J. Leng, Dr. Farquharson; As. Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 13, 708.**Petitions, July 11, 464; July 18, 1166; July 20, 1358.***Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill***Petitions, July 7, 161; July 11, 464; July 12, 585; July 14, 868; July 17, 989; July 18, 1167; July 21, 1532.***SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN***Petitions, July 18, 1167; July 20, 1358.***Salford Corporation Bill***c. Rep. from Select Com., July 20, 1389.***SALISBURY, MARQUESS OF—Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs**Convocation, Meetings of — Illegal Proceedings, alleged, *July 10, 296.*Estate Duty—Government Valuers, *July 10, 292.*Seats for Shop Assistants Bill, 2R., *July 11, 447.***SALMON FISHERIES**England and Wales, Report presented, *July 6, 3, 8.*Scotland—Inspector's Salary, *S., July 14, 953.***SALONIKA BRIGANDS**, Ransoms paid to—Case of Col. Syngle and Mr. Suter.*Q. Mr. Pierpoint; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 21, 1540.***SAMOA—Parliamentary Papers***Q. Mr. Davitt; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 21, 1541.***SAMUEL, MR. H. S. [Tower Hamlets, Limehouse]**Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, *Com., July 13, 841.***SAMUEL, MR. J. [Stockton]**Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, *Con., July 17, 1112; July 18, 1210, 1230, 1248, 1257; July 19, 1308, 1315, 1318, 1338.***SANTO DOMINGO**—Trade Report presented, *July 10, 276.*

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Cagliari, British Consul at—Appointment of Italian Subject
Q. Mr. Moon; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 20, 1368.

SASSOON, SIR E. [Hythe]

Division Lobbies, Ventilation of, *July 18, 1170.*

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Post Office Savings Bank Accounts, Verifying
Qs. Gen. Laurie, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. Hanbury, July 11, 879.

Trustee Savings Banks, Return ordered [Sir J. W. Maclare] *July 20, 1360.*

SCHWANN, MR. C. E. [Manchester, N.]

Ceylon Land Ordinances—Governor's Report, *July 6, 18.*

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London School Board, Illegal Expenditure
Qs. Mr. E. Cecil, Mr. J. Lowther; As. Sir J. Gorst, July 17, 1004.

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Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Mr. Hanbury, July 6, 26.

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Q. Sir W. Wills; A. Sir J. Gorst, July 6, 24.

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Q. Mr. Hazell; A. Sir J. Gorst, July 18, 698.

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Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 21, 1543.

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Inspection, Scotland, *See Education—Scotch Questions.*

Reformatory and Industrial Schools, *See that Title; See also Education.*

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Secretary for Scotland—Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

Lord Advocate—Rt. Hon. A. G. Murray.

Solicitor-General—Mr. C. Scott-Dickson.

Army Recruiting in the Highlands
Q. Mr. Hedderwick; A. Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 686.

Districts included in
Qs. Capt. Sinclair, Mr. Hedderwick; As. Mr. Wyndham, July 14, 869.

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Deer Forest Return
Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 21, 1545.

Edinburgh Castle, Opening to the Public
Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Akers-Douglas, July 21, 1547.

Education, *For Collective Heading, See Education—Scotch Questions.*

Fisheries, *For Collective Heading, See Fisheries—Scotch Questions.*

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Harbour Accommodation, *S., July 14, 899.*

Highlands, *For Collective Heading, See Highlands.*

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Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 13, 701.

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Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 21, 1543.

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Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 10, 311.

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Orkney Sheriff Clerk, Appointment and Duties of
Q. Sir L. Lyell; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 17, 1006.

Orphan Homes—Education Department Decision
Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 14, 884.

Osprey, Destruction of—Penalty
Q. Mr. A. Cross; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 20, 1377.

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- Pauper Patients, Removal of—Glasgow Police Regulations
Q. Sir C. Cameron ; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 13*, 702.
- Peddleston Public School, etc.—Water Supply
Qs. Mr. Weir ; *As.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 13*, 702 ; *July 21*, 1544.
- Poor Relief
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 21*, 1545.
- Port Ness, *See that Title.*
- Portmahomack and Portnaguran Harbours, *See those Titles.*
- Prison Officials' Salaries, *S.*, *July 7*, 209.
- Prisoners, Treatment of
Q. Mr. J. P. Smith ; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 14*, 884.
- Rates, Non-payment of—Disfranchisement
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 14*, 882.
- Reformatory and Industrial Schools, *See that Title.*
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- School Inspection
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 - Wester Ross Schools
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 6*, 28.
- School Registers—New Code
Q. Mr. Crombie ; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 21*, 1543.
- Seats for Shop Assistants, Extending scope of Bill to Scotland, Motion [Lord Ribblesdale], *July 13*, 666.
- Secondary Education Grant—Banffshire
Q. Sir W. Wedderburn ; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 14*, 883.
- Secretary for Scotland, Vote for, *July 14*, 888 ; *July 17*, 1118.
- Sheriff Clerks, Appointment and Duties of
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- Spinning and Weaving in the Highlands
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 13*, 704.
- Stornoway Prison, Abandonment of
Qs. Mr. Weir ; *As.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 14*, 882 ; *July 21*, 1545.
- Training Ship, Visit to Stornoway
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. Goschen, *July 21*, 1537.
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- Vaccination Prosecutions—Conscientious Objectors
Q. Mr. Colville ; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 13*, 703.

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Q. Mr. W. Johnston ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 6*, 15.Boy Sailors Scheme
Q. Sir C. Dilke ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 21*, 1542.Lascar Seamen, Transfer of—Superintendents' Remuneration Grievance
Q. Mr. A. Thomas ; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 14*, 873.New York British Consular Shipping Office
Q. Sir J. Fergusson ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 10*, 306.

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Q. Sir C. Dilke ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 21*, 1542.Manning the Navy—Recruiting in Manufacturing Districts, *S.*, *July 21*, 1609.Pensions, Return ordered [Lord C. Beresford], *July 21*, 1533.

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formerly

Seats for Shop Assistants [England and Ireland] Bill

l. *2R.*, *July 11*, 431.*Com.*, *July 13*, 666.*Rep.* * *July 20*, 1349.*3R.*, *July 21*, 1520.

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Q. Sir W. Wedderburn ; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 14*, 883.Board of Education Bill, *See that Title.*Education Department, Re-organisation, *Debate* [*l.*] *July 21*, 1524.

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Qs. Mr. Jebb, Mr. Bryce, Col. Lockwood; As. Sir J. Gorst, July 17, 1005.

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SEELY, Mr. C. H. [Lincoln]

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, Con., July 20, 1472.

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Transvaal—Seven Years' Prospective and Retrospective Franchise, July 11, 429; July 20, 1350.

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Q. Lord C. Beresford; A. Mr. Macartney, July 17, 991.

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"Starring" Private Members' Bills, etc. Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 20, 1386

SETON-KARR, MR. H. [St. Helens]

Tithe-rent Charge [Rates] Bill, 3R., July 20, 1416, 1418, 1419, 1421, 1432.

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Q. Mr. Penn; A. Mr. Goshen, July 13, 681.

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Q. Mr. Tennant; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, July 20, 1376.

Sheffield Corporation Markets Bill

I. Rep.* July 18, 1121.

SHERIFF CLERK, ORKNEY, Appointment and Duties of

Q. Sir L. Lyell; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 17, 1006.

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l. Royal Assent, July 13, 662.

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Shotley Bridge and Consett District Gas Bill

l. Royal Assent, July 13, 662.

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Africa, South, Troops for—Information Communicated to the "Times," July 14, 885.

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Q. Mr. Broadhurst; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 18, 1173.

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 Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, *Motion* [Mr. A. J. Balfour], *July 13, 710.*

Skipton Urban District Gas Bill

*l. Royal Assent, July 13, 662.*SLANEY, COL. W. KENYON, *See* Kenyon-Slaney.

Small Houses [Acquisition of Ownership] Bill

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Q. Mr. Bartley; A. Mr. Chaplin, July 13, 697.

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*Prisoners in Scotland, Treatment of, July 14, 884.**Scotch Estimates—Business of the House, July 11, 483.*

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l. 3R. July 10, 274.
c. Lords Amendts., July 14, 863.
l. Commons Amendts., July 18, 1121.*

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Companies [New Lines] Bill

l. Rep. July 18, 1122.
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c. Rep. July 6, 8.
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l. Commons Amendts., July 20, 1347.*

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*New Buildings—Clock proposed for exterior
Q. Sir M. Bhownaggree; A. Mr. Akers-Douglas, July 7, 174.**Science and Art Department, See that Title.*

South Staffordshire Stipendiary Justice Bill

*c. Lords Amendts., July 6, 7.
l. Royal Assent, July 13, 663.*

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*Bilbao—Imprisonment of British Seamen
Q. Mr. W. Johnston; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 6, 15.**Trade Report presented, July 6, 3.*

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*Amendments on Third Reading —
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Q. Sir W. Foster; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, *July 13*, 696.

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Qs. Sir T. Esmonde, Mr. Davitt; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 21*, 1549.

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Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Goschen, *July 21*, 1537.

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Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 20*, 1385.

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County Courts—£29,714, *Com.** *July 7*, 192; *Rep.** *July 17*, 1117.

Home Office—£96,868, *Com.*, *July 7*, 220.

Incorporated Law Society—£23,200, *Rep.** *July 17*, 1116.

Land Registry—£16,742, *Com.** *July 7*, 192; *Rep.** *July 17*, 1116.

Law Officers' Department, etc.—£39,232, *Com.*, *July 7*, 189; *Rep.** *July 17*, 1116.

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SUPPLY—*cont.*Civil Service Estimates—*cont.*

Legal Expenses, Miscellaneous—£13,200, *Com.** July 7, 192.

Metropolitan Police—£40,968, *Rep.** July 17, 1117.

Police—England and Wales, £40,968, *Com.** July 7, 193.

Prisons in England, Wales, and the Colonies—£415,161, *Com.*, July 7, 194; *Rep.** July 17, 1117.

Reformatory and Industrial Schools—£124,195, *Com.*, July 7, 214; *Rep.** July 17, 1117.

Scotch Votes

Fishery Board—£16,169, *Com.*, July 14, 941.

Secretary for Scotland—£8,858, *Com.*, July 14, 888; *Rep.** July 17, 1118.

Supplementary Estimates

Q. Mr. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 20, 1388.

Estimate presented, July 21, 1533.

Supreme Court of Judicature—£206,527, *Com.** July 7, 192; *Rep.** July 17, 1116.

SUTER, MR.—Ransom paid to Brigands

Q. Mr. Pierpoint; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, July 21, 1540.

SUTHERLAND, SIR T. [Greenock]

Egyptian Lighthouses—Net Revenue and Construction of Red Sea Lights, etc., July 20, 1368.

SUTTON SCHOOLS

Purchase by Metropolitan Asylums Board—Question of Accommodation *Q.* Mr. Trevelyan; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, July 17, 1003.

SWEDEN—Trade Report presented, July 14, 862.

SYNGE, COL.—Ransom paid to Brigands

Q. Mr. Pierpoint; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, July 21, 1540.

Taff Vale Railway Bill

c. Lords Amendts., July 10, 298.
i. Royal Assent, July 13, 663.

TALBOT, RT. HON. J. G. [Oxford University]

Juvenile Offenders, Treatment of, July 13, 700.

Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, 3R., July 20, 1402.

TAXATION

Local Taxation, *See that Title.*

TEACHERS

Poor Law Schools—Trained Teachers
Q. Mr. W. Jones; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, July 7, 175.

Superannuation Act
Q. Mr. Dalziel; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, July 18, 1171.

Vaccination of—Case of F. H. Richardson
Q. Mr. Mellor; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, July 20, 1382.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Act of 1889—Subjects taught under Clause 8, Minutes of Committee of Council on Education presented, July 6, 4.

Soldiers—War Office, etc., Circulars
Q. Mr. Woods; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, July 6, 11.

See also Secondary Education.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES

Belfast Offices—Lavatory accommodation, etc.

Q. Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, July 17, 1009.

Congested Districts, Scotland—Telegraph Offices

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, July 11, 479.

TELEGRAPHISTS

Belfast Conference

Q. Mr. Macaleese; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, July 6, 25.

London, E.C. District Post Office—Telegraph Messengers' Postal Duties

Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Hanbury July 14, 878.

London Female Telegraphists' Salaries—Receipt Stamp

Q. Mr. M'Ghee; *A.* Mr. Hanbury July 17, 1009.

Telegraphs [Telephonic Communication, etc.] Bill

c. *Rep.** July 6, 41.

TELEGRAPHS [TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION, ETC.] BILL

Petition, July 19, 1269.

TELEPHONE COMPANY, *See* National Telephone Company.

TENNANT, MR. H. J. [Berwickshire]

Cammell's Works Fatality, Sheffield—Locomotives in Factories, July 20 1376.

Factory Department Reorganisation, July 7, 238.

Factory Legislation—Business of the House, July 17, 1028.

Lead Poisoning, July 6, 31—Arbitration on Special Rules, etc., July 7, 239.

Paterson v. Donegal Fishing Company, Appeal under Factories Act—Statutory Notice, July 6, 29; July 20, 1377.

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TERRIBLE, H. M. S.—Boiler Trials, *S. July 21*, 1557, 1561, 1563.

TEYNHAM, LORD
Commons and Open Spaces Bill, *Com., July 10*, 288.

THOMAS, MR. ABEL [Carmarthenshire, E.]
Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, *Con., July 19*, 1312, 1326.

Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, *Com., July 10*, 395, 411; *July 11*, 533, 568; *July 12*, 630.

THOMAS, MR. ALFRED [Glamorganshire, E.]
Lascars Seamen, Transfer of—Superintendents' Remuneration Grievance, *July 14*, 873.

THOMAS, MR. D. A. [Merthyr Tydvil]
British South Africa Company's Accounts, *July 6*, 19.

Glamorgan, Military in—Welsh Coal Strike, Payment to Tradesmen, *July 10*, 310.

Parliamentary Permanent Staff—Committee Report, *July 14*, 880.

Police Court Perjury, *July 6*, 30.

Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, *Com., July 10*, 335, 388, 396, 406, 407, 410; *July 11*, 510, 512, 524, 525, 559, 560, 577; *July 12*, 713, 715, 750, 753, 774, 775, 795, 797, 803, 804, 805, 851; *3R., July 20*, 1392, 1421.

Discontinued Grants, *July 13*, 695; *July 20*, 1380.

THRING, LORD
Commons and Open Spaces Bill, *Com., July 10*, 283.

TIME-TABLES, RAILWAY, Publication of *Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. Ritchie, July 11*, 475.

“**TIMES**,” Premature Publications by Cottage Homes Bill, Select Committee Report *Os. Mr. J. A. Pease, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Paulton, July 17*, 1013.

Naval Manoeuvres *Qs. Mr. MacNeill, Mr. Dillon; As. Mr. Goschen, July 14*, 886.

Transvaal, Military Preparations—Troops for South Africa *Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Mr. Wyndham, July 11*, 467; *Qs. Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Dillon; As. Mr. Wyndham, July 12*, 687; *Qs. Capt. Sinclair, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Davitt; As. Mr. Wyndham, July 14*, 885.

T.PPERARY—Cashel Printing Contract *Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 6*, 34.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE [IRELAND] BILL
Os. Duke of Abercorn, July 18, 1139.
Treasury Memorandum *Qs. Mr. Dillon; As. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 6*, 36; *July 7*, 185.

Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill

c. Com., July 10, 325; *July 11*, 484; *July 12*, 586; *July 13*, 713.
3R., July 20, 1391.
l. 1R. July 21*, 1500.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE [RATES] BILL

Clause 4, Rates referred to under
l. Q. Mr. E. Robertson; A. Mr. Long, July 13, 694.

Discontinued Grants

Q. Mr. Warner; A. Mr. Long, July 7, 174; *Q. Mr. Humphreys-Owen; A. Mr. Long, July 10*, 31; *Q. Sir W. Foster; A. Mr. Long, July 11*, 475; *Q. Mr. J. H. Roberts; A. Mr. Long, July 13*, 694; *Q. Mr. J. L. Morgan; A. Mr. Long, July 13*, 695; *Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Long, July 13*, 695; *Qs. Mr. Lambert, Mr. Stuart-Wortley; As. Mr. Long, July 17*, 1000; *Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. Long, July 18*, 1170; *Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Long, July 20*, 1380.

Petitions, *July 12*, 585; *July 13*, 678; *July 14*, 868; *July 17*, 989; *July 18*, 1167; *July 19*, 1269; *July 20*, 1359.

Remission of Rates payable by City of London Clergy *Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. Long, July 10*, 312.

Tithe Rent-charge attached to Benefices *Q. Mr. M'Kenna; A. Mr. Long, July 10*, 313.

Twelve o'clock Rule, Suspension of, Motion [Mr. A. J. Balfour], *July 11*, 710.

TODMORDEN BOYS, EXCESSIVE SENTENCE ON FOR STEALING GOOSEBERRIES

Qs. Sir F. Flannery; As. Sir M. W. Ridley, July 18, 1173; *July 20*, 1376.

TOMLINSON, MR. W. E. M. [Preston]
Railway Companies' Running Powers—Sectional Maps, *July 13*, 699.

Total Water Bill

c. Con. July 10*, 298.
3R. July 13*, 678.
l. Commons Amendts., *July 14*, 862.

TOULON MAGAZINE EXPLOSION

Q. Admiral Field; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 21, 1541.
O. Admiral Field, July 21, 1604.

TRADE BOARD OF

President—Rt. Hon. C. T. Ritchie, Parliamentary Secretary—Earl of Dudley.

TRADE DISPUTES, *See Strikes*.

Trade Marks Bill

c. 1R. July 21*, 1554.

TRADE REPORTS PRESENTED

Annual Series, *July 6*, 3, 9; *July 10*, 276, 300; *July 13*, 665, 679; *July 14*, 862, 869; *July 17*, 958, 989; *July 18*, 1124, 1167.

Miscellaneous Series, *July 11*, 428, 465.

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TRADE AND COMMERCE

Nigeria, British Trade with

*Qs. Mr. J. E. Ellis; As. Mr. Brodrick, July 10, 304; July 13, 690.*Tunis, British and French Exports—
Return*Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 14, 875; Return ordered [Mr. Crombie], July 17, 990.***TRAINING SHIPS**Reformatory School Ships, System of Management, etc., *S.*, July 7, 217.

Stornoway, Training Ship for

*Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Goschen, July 21, 1537.***TRAMORE BOATSLIP, Erection of, proposed***Q. Mr. Power; A. Mr. J. A. Chamberlain, July 6, 10.***Tramways Orders Confirmation [No. 1] Bill***c. 2R.* July 10, 299.**Rep.* July 20, 1358.**Con.* July 21, 1532.***Tramways Orders Confirmation [No. 2] Bill***c. 2R.* July 12, 585.***Tramways Orders Confirmation [No. 3] Bill***c. 2R.* July 18, 1166.***TRANSVAAL QUESTION**

Arbitration—Prof. Westlake's Recommendations

Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 6, 37.

Bloemfontein Conference

Correspondence presented, *July 20, 1347, 1360.*

Papers relating to

Qs. Mr. Dillon, Mr. Bartley; As. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 6, 20; Q. Mr. Davitt; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 11, 473; Qs. Sir W. Lawson, Mr. Dillon; As. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 13, 692.

Butler's, Sir W., Despatches

Q. Mr. Dillon; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 10, 308.

Education of English-speaking Children

Qs. Mr. Wharton, Dr. Clark; As. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 13, 692.

Franchise

Number of Uitlanders entitled to vote for first Volksraad

*Q. Mr. Lambert; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 11, 472; Qs. Mr. Lambert, Mr. Maclean, Mr. Davitt, Mr. Courtney; As. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 17, 998.***TRANSVAAL QUESTION—cont.**

Franchise—cont.

Seven Years prospective and retrospective Franchise

Qs. Earl of Camperdown, Earl Spencer; As. Earl of Selborne, July 11, 429; Q. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman; As. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 11, 473; O. Earl of Selborne, July 20, 1350; Qs. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Davitt; As. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 20, 1372.

Grey's, Earl, Speech at Newcastle—Attack on President Kruger

Q. Mr. MacNeill; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 6, 38.

Military Preparations—Troops, etc., for South Africa

*Qs. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Labouchere, Commander Bethell; As. Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 7, 186.*Expanding Bullets supplied to Troops,
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Q. Mr. Dillon; A. Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 689.

Reliefs and Reinforcements

Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Mr. Wyndham, July 17, 999.

Royal Field Artillery

Qs. Mr. Dillon, Mr. Arnold-Forster; As. Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 689.

Special Service Officers

Q. Mr. J. E. Ellis; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 11, 473.

"Times" Publication

Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Mr. Wyndham, July 11, 467; Qs. Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Dillon; As. Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 687; Qs. Capt. Sinclair, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Davitt; As. Mr. Wyndham, July 14, 885.

Milner's, Sir A., Despatch of May 14, Publication of

Q. Mr. Dalziel; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 17, 999.

Negotiations

Cape Government—Explanation [Mr. J. Chamberlain], *July 6, 40.*

Progress of

Qs. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman; As. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 10, 321.

Taxation on Food, etc.

Qs. Mr. Wharton, Dr. Clark; As. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 13, 693.

Uitlander Population—Number of British Subjects, etc.

Q. Mr. Labouchere; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 13, 692.

Transvaal Mortgage Loan and Finance Company Bill

c. 3R. July 10, 298.**l. Royal Assent, July 13, 663.*

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TRAVERS' FOUNDATION—Income and Expenditure, Statement, *July 20*, 1496.

TRAWLING**Irish Coast**

O. Mr. Power, July 10, 905.

Admiralty and the Enforcement of Bye-laws, *S.*, *July 21*, 1611, 1613.

Three-mile limit

Q. Mr. Power; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 10, 319.

Scottish Coast

Jackal, H.M.S.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Goschen, July 10, 301.

Moray Firth, etc., Debate in Committee of Supply, *July 14*, 889.

TREASURY

First Lord—Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour.

Secretary—Rt. Hon. Sir W. H. Walrond.

Financial Secretary—Rt. Hon. R. W. Hanbury.

TREATY SERIES PRESENTED, *July 21*, 1500, 1533.

TREVELVAN, MR. C. P. [Yorkshire, W. R., Rotherham]

Pauper Children, Ill-treatment of—Bristol Case, *July 10*, 313.

Sutton Schools, Purchase by Metropolitan Asylums Board, *July 17*, 1003.

TRIM UNION NIGHT NURSE—Hours of Duty
Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 17, 1011.

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME [SCOTLAND] BILL

Petition, *July 13*, 678.

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS

Returns ordered [Sir J. W. Maclure], *July 20*, 1360.

TUBERCULOSIS—Goats and Goats' Milk Supply
Q. Mr. Stephens; A. Mr. Long, July 21, 1545.

TUNIS

British and French Exports—Return

Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 14, 875.

Return ordered [Mr. Crombie], *July 17*, 990.

TURKEY

Balkan Provinces Reforms

Q. Mr. Stevenson; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 13, 690.

Brigands near Salonika, Ransoms paid to
—Case of Col. Syngle and Mr. Suter

Q. Mr. Pierpoint; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 21, 1540.

Plague in, Precautions against

Q. Sir W. Foster; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 17, 997.

Trade Report presented, *July 13*, 665.

TWELVE O'CLOCK RULE, SUSPENSION OF
Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, *Motion*
[Mr. A. J. Balfour], *July 11*, 710.

TYRONE—Fixing Fair Rents

Qs. Mr. Dillon; As. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 6, 34; *July 13*, 705.

UGANDA

Commissionership of Uganda Protectorate

—Resignation of Mr. Berkeley

Q. Commander Bethell; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 10, 305.

Mombasa-Victoria Railway Committee, Report, *July 13*, 665, 679.

UITLANDERS' GRIEVANCES, *See Transvaal*.

ULSTER ASSIZES

Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. Barton, July 7, 181.

UNDERGROUND RAILWAY VENTILATION

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Ritchie, July 6, 21.

UNIFORMS

Customs Officers', *See Customs*.

Regimental Facings—Restoration of Old Facings

Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; A. Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 686.

Volunteers—Infantry Sash, etc.

Q. Mr. Duncombe; A. Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 683.

UNITED STATES

Alaskan Boundary Question

Q. Mr. Davitt; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 21, 1541.

Cancer, Laboratory at Buffalo

Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. Ritchie, July 11, 471.

New York British Consular Shipping Office—Crimping, etc.

Q. Sir J. Fergusson; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 10, 306.

Trade Report presented, *July 10*, 276.

Treaty of Reciprocity with Jamaica

Qs. Sir H. Vincent, Mr. J. Lowther; As. Mr. J. Chamberlain, July 10, 307.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT [1898] AMENDMENT BILL

c. 1 R.* *July 11*, 465.

2R.* *July 17*, 1115.

3R.* *July 18*, 1285.

i. 1R.* *July 20*, 1357.

2R.* *July 21*, 1524.

URLINGFORD DISPENSARY DISTRICTS

Q. Mr. McDermott; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 13, 707.

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VACCINATION

False Certificates—Prosecution of Dr. Lamont, Debate in Committee of Supply, July 14, 915.

Prosecutions

Chesterfield

Q. Mr. T. Bayley; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, July 6, 28.

Ludlow

Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, July 7, 172.

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Q. Mr. Pickersgill; *A.* Sir M. W. Ridley, July 10, 312.

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Q. Mr. Logan; *A.* Mr. Chaplin, July 7, 174.

School Teachers—Case of F. H. Richardson

Q. Mr. Mellor; *A.* Sir J. Gorst, July 20, 1382.

Scotland—Conscientious Objectors

Q. Mr. Colville; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, July 13, 703.

VENEZUELA—Trade Report presented, July 13, 665.

VENTILATION

Division Lobbies in the House of Commons
Q. Sir E. Sassoon; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas, July 18, 1170.

Underground Railway

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, July 6, 21.

VINCENT, COL. SIR C. E. H. [Sheffield, Central]

Jamaica and United States—Treaty of Reciprocity, July 10, 307.

Volunteers, Conveyance of on Saturdays—Arrangements with Railway Companies, July 13, 685.

VIVISECTION

Petition for suppression, July 13, 666.

VOLENITE COMPANY—Naval Contracts

Q. Mr. Morris; *A.* Mr. Macartney, July 11, 467.

VOLUNTEERS

Government Employees as—Attendance at Camp

Q. Col. Lockwood; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 684; *Q.* Capt. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, July 18, 1168.

Post Office Employees

Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, July 21, 1547.

Medical Staff Corps—Efficiency Certificate presented, July 11, 428, 464.

Railway Companies—Conveyance of Volunteers on Saturdays

Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 685.

Rifle Ranges, See that Title.

VOLUNTEERS—cont.

Scottish Regiments—Proposed Review
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, July 7, 169.

Sergeant-Instructors' Recruiting Duties
Q. Mr. Arnold-Forster; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, July 21, 1538.

Tents, "Mark 2"

Q. Mr. Duncombe; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 683.

Uniforms—Infantry Sash, etc.

Q. Mr. Duncombe; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 683.

Vote for

Q. Sir J. Fergusson; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, July 17, 1012.

WAIMA INCIDENT—Compensation Claims

Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Hedderwick; *As.* Mr. Hanbury, July 11, 470; *Qs.* Mr. Bill, Mr. Hedderwick; *As.* Mr. Brodrick, July 20, 1369.

Wakefield Corporation Bill

c. Rep. July 20, 1348.*

WALES

Coal Strike in 1898—Military in Glamorgan, Payment to Tradesmen for Catering

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Sir M. Hicks-Beach, July 10, 310.

Pwllheli Boating Disaster

Q. Mr. Lloyd-George; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, July 6, 22.

Walker and Wallsend Union Gas [Electric Lighting] Bill

l. Rep. July 14, 861.*
3R. July 21, 1499.*

WALLACE, MR. R. [Perth]

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, *Con.*, July 19, 1310.

WANKLYN, MR. J. L. [Bradford, Central]

Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, *3R.*, July 20, 1425, 1429.

WAR OFFICE

Secretary of State—Marquess of Lansdowne.

Under-Secretary—Mr. Wyndham.

Financial Secretary—Mr. J. Powell Williams.

Administration of—Mr. Arnold-Forster's attack on, July 21, 1614.

Army, Questions relating to, *See Army*.

Female Clerks in—Daughters of deceased Officers

Q. Mr. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, July 7, 170.

Records of insufficient value to justify preservation, Schedule presented, July 6, 9; July 7, 140.

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Reorganisation — Claims of Officers wounded in action
Q. Mr. Yoxall; A. Mr. Wyndham, July 13, 686.

Staff Clerks' Annual Allowances—Principal's Temporary Absence
Q. Mr. Kilbride; A. Mr. Wyndham, July 14, 870.

Vote for, *July 21, 1614.*

WARDERS IN PRISONS—Grievances

Debate in Committee of Supply, *July 7, 205.*

WARING STREET POST OFFICE, BELFAST

Q. Mr. Macalister; A. Mr. Hanbury, July 21, 1550.

WARNER, MR. T. C. T. [Stafford, Lichfield]

Army Estimates, Discussion on, *July 21, 1654.*

Military Works Bill, 2R., *July 6, 110.*

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, *Con., July 17, 1042; July 20, 1454, 1459.*

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WARRANT OFFICERS' GRIEVANCES, INDIA

Q. Sir C. Gull; A. Lord G. Hamilton, July 14, 870.

Warrington Corporation Bill

l. 2R. July 11, 426.
Com.* July 13, 663.*

WASTE LAND ORDINANCE OF CEYLON, *See Ceylon.*

Water Orders Confirmation Bill

c. Rep. July 14, 867.
3R.* July 17, 988.*

WATER SUPPLY

Ireland—District Charges, etc.

Castlerea, Claremorris, etc.

Qs. Mr. Davitt, Mr. Dillon; As. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 10, 317.

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Qs. Mr. Hemphill, Mr. Davitt; As. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 11, 481.

London Water Supply—Royal Commission, Cost of Printing Minutes, etc.

Q. Mr. Hardy; A. Mr. Hanbury, July 6, 27.

Peddleston Public School, etc.

Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 13, 702; July 21, 1544.

WATER-TIGHT DOORS AND NAVAL SHIPS, S., *July 21, 1583.*WATER-TUBE BOILERS, *See Boilers.*

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Sub-Land Commissioners' Sittings
Q. Mr. Power; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 13, 705; Q. Mr. Morris; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 13, 706.

Tramore Boat-slip

Q. Mr. Power; A. Mr. J. A. Champlain, July 6, 10.

WATERING TROUGHS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES AMONG HORSES

Qs. Sir C. Cameron, Col. Lockwood, Mr. T. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Long, July 20, 1380.

WEAVING AND SPINNING IN THE HIGHLANDS

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, July 13, 704.

WEDDERBURN, SIR W. [Banffshire]

Fishery Board, Scotland, *July 14, 946.*

Fishery Districts, formation of, *July 14, 888.*

Northern Fisheries Conference, *July 14, 874, 946.*

Secondary Education Grant, Banffshire, *July 14, 883.*

WEIR, MR. J. G. [Ross and Cromarty]

Attorney and Solicitor General, Salaries, Fees, etc., *July 7, 189, 191.*

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Belleville Boiler Accidents, *July 7, 167.*

Bridges, Maintenance of, *July 14, 882; July 21, 1543.*

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County Valuation Rolls, *July 6, 27.*

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Deer Forest Return, *July 21, 1545.*

Delagoa Bay Arbitration, *July 10, 305.*

Edinburgh Castle, Opening to the Public, *July 21, 1547.*

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Admiralty and the Enforcement of Bye-laws, *July 14, 899, 913, 944, 950; July 21, 1612.*

Cruisers—Crews' Leave of Absence, *July 11, 480.*

Fishery Board, Application for Boats, etc., *July 14, 880.*

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Jackal, H.M.S., and Illegal Trawling, July 10, 301; July 13, 682.

Three-mile Limit, Extension of, etc., *July 14, 898.*

Horse and Cattle Breeding in Congested Districts, *July 13, 701.*

Hydrographical Conference — Countries represented, *July 6, 15.*

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WEIR, MR. J. G.—*cont.*

Lamont, Dr., Prosecution of, *July 14*, 940,
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Lewis, Island of—Rate Collection, *July 6*,
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311.

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